

phone, electronically, in person or a mix. Sessions range from short, one-time contacts to longer sessions of a half-day or more. Two examples of more in-depth consultations conducted include:

- Meeting with members of the Southwest Injury Prevention Committee to clarify the situation of Canadian helmet standards. This consultation resulted in the SMARTRISK Learning Series session *Helmets – Standards, Certification and Regulations* with guest faculty Ian Brodie from the Canadian Standards Association. Additional work is ongoing.

- Working with public health practitioners to develop a program logic model for the Northern Ontario Senior Falls Initiative.

For information or to arrange a consultation tailored to your needs, contact the Resource Centre at 416-977-7350, toll free at 1-888-537-7777 or e-mail info@smartrisk.ca.

Learning Series helps build resilient youth

The Nov. 21 session of the SMARTRISK Learning Series focuses on building resiliency in high-risk youth and their families as a preventive programming strategy. Thanks to generous funding and support provided by the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Public Health

Association, the SMARTRISK Learning Series is offered through the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre and is available free to Ontario participants.

Presenter Wayne Hammond will explore how agencies can identify and nurture protective factors and capacities of children and youth, allowing them to cope effectively with everyday challenges, bounce back from adversity, develop realistic goals and treat themselves and others with respect. For information, visit the Practitioners page at www.smartrisk.ca or e-mail learning@smartrisk.ca

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ONTARIO STAKEHOLDERS NEWS

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Featuring...

- Save the OIPC date.....
- Scholarships available.....
- Toronto launches falls project.
- Consultations offered.....
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Save the date for OIPC 2007 in Thunder Bay

The Ontario Injury Prevention Conference 2007 theme is Preserving our People. Set for Thunder Bay from June 3-5, this promises to be a groundbreaking conference, highlighting injury prevention in Northern Ontario and showcasing innovative sessions on relevant topics for practitioners from across Ontario. OIPC is supported by the ministries of Health Promotion and Transportation, SMARTRISK and the Ontario Public Health Association.

Watch www.smartrisk.ca for updates.

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Grad students can apply for \$20,000 scholarships

The Toronto Rehabilitation Institute is helping students with disabilities pursue graduate work in rehabilitation-related research by making \$20,000 scholarships available at an increasing number of universities.

Besides the University of Toronto, students at McMaster University, Ryerson University, the University of Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier University and York University are now eligible to apply for these scholarships.

With the support of TD Bank Financial Group, Toronto Rehab is able to provide scholarships of \$20,000 and a supplement for educational expenses incurred as a result of the student's disability. Applicants must plan to be enrolled in a rehabilitation-related graduate program leading to a master's or doctoral degree at one of the eligible universities. Fields of study must relate to rehabilitation but are not limited to any particular discipline.

Scholarships will next be awarded for the 2007/08 academic year, with an application deadline date of May 1, 2007. Visit www.torontorehab.com or contact Lois Ward at ward.lois@torontorehab.on.ca or 416 597-3422, ext. 7600, for information.

Toronto public health launches falls campaign

More than 200 older adults die each year and over 3,000 are hospitalized due to fall-related injuries within the city of Toronto.

In June, Toronto Public Health launched a communications campaign, *Stop a Fall before it Happens... at Home*. This three-to-five year campaign aims to raise the awareness of older adults that falls are preventable. The focus for Phase 1 of this first year is to increase awareness of safe falls prevention practices in the home. Phase 2 will address environmental risk factors around the home. Subsequent years will focus on other falls risk factors, such as medication use and lower physical activity.

During Seniors Month, 14 events were held in Toronto, reaching about 920 people. *Stop a Fall Before it Happens* information packages, imprinted with the stop sign logo were distributed. Included were fact sheets: *Home Safety Tips*, *What to Do if You Fall* (reprinted with permission from Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit), a notepad and pen.

Electronic versions of these fact sheets and a public service announcement were distributed to 48 seniors support service agencies. Community partners assisted in

publishing *What to Do if You Fall*, in the Community Care Access Centre magazine, *The Family Caregiver*. Advertising space was purchased in publications with wide circulation: Toronto Library's *What's On*, *Toronto Fun Guide* and the *Forever Young Seniors Magazine*.

Participating agencies completed an electronic survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the resources. Feedback has been positive for style, content, format, layout and electronic distribution. The *Home Safety Tips* and *What to do if You Fall* were ranked first and second.

Individual agencies distributed 750 copies of handouts to their clients. Agencies said they would like more electronic resources and found it an efficient means of distribution. They raised the need for these resources to be translated into other languages. A participating agency is translating the materials into Mandarin.

Phase 2 of this campaign commences with National Seniors' Safety Week (Nov. 6-12, 2006). Canada Safety Council's theme is *Safe Winter Walking*, which dovetails nicely with the campaign's Phase 2 environmental focus, addressing falls prevention practices around home.

Falls prevention information packages

will continue to be distributed with the addition of seasonal fact sheets: *Stop a Fall Before it Happens...*, *Get Around Safely this Winter*, *Give a Gift for Safety* and *Is Your Cane the Correct Height?* The TPH falls prevention webpage is being updated with the resources.

"The number of seniors in Toronto will increase significantly in the coming years, so it is very important to address their safety issues" said Liz Janzen, Healthy Living Director for Toronto Public Health. "Through our *Stop a Fall Before it Happens* campaign, we will raise awareness among older persons that falls are predictable and preventable."

Consultations offered at Ontario Resource Centre

The Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre is designed to support and enhance work in injury prevention. One service offered is consultations, to advise and support the needs of community injury prevention projects.

Consultations may involve such activities as short training sessions, advice on program planning, evaluation or research, feedback on plans or strategies and access to information and resources. Consultations may be conducted by