

Seeing is Believing

Host: Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP)

July 16 2009: *Ending Women's Poverty Through Community-Based Knowledge Transfer*

Leader:

Victoria Hubbell, Senior Vice-President, Strategy & Stakeholder Relations, HOOPP

Delegates:

John Crocker, President & CEO, HOOPP

Reno Bugiardini, Senior Vice-President, Information Technology & Facilities Services, HOOPP

Barb Thompson, Senior Vice-President, Plan Operations, HOOPP

Carm Pappas, Vice President, Plan Operations, HOOPP

Danielle Kotras, Senior Director, Healthcare, HOOPP

Claudia Veloza, Senior Human Resources Business Partner, HOOPP

Jim Kataras, Director, Real Estate & Private Equity, HOOPP

Laura Lankin, Director, Business Support Group, Plan Operations, HOOPP

Wendy Reid, Director of Marketing, HOOPP

Safiya Bannister, Manager, Securities Operations, Investment Operations & Accounting, HOOPP

Jennifer Copson, Manager, Planning & Performance Measurement, HOOPP

Raj Dutta, Manager, IT Security & Database Services, HOOPP

Victor Rajic, Team Lead, Member Services, HOOPP

Across Canada, nearly 19% of adult women are now poor – the highest rate of women's poverty in two decades. Hospitals of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP) chose to engage its leadership team on the issue of women's poverty because of its strong resonance with its plan membership. The tour focused on how HOOPP can support women's economic independence through knowledge and skills transfer.

The tour began at **Times Change Women's Employment Service**, a Toronto-based organization which contributes to the economic and social equality of all women by helping them obtain satisfying ways to earn their living. Delegates spoke with women whose lives and careers had been interrupted by circumstances beyond their control and their path back into meaningful work.

The tour continued to **YWCA of Etobicoke** where delegates met participants in employment and language instruction programs and gained firsthand knowledge of the employment barriers that exist for recent immigrants and visible minorities. YWCA staff spoke passionately about the social isolation and economic dependence many immigrant women face after moving to a new country.

Lastly, delegates visited **Community MicroSkills Development Centre** where they spoke with women participating in employment training and self-employment programs. MicroSkills provides training and support to low-income, immigrant and visible minority women who want to start their own business.



HOOPP employees speak with a self-employment program participant at Community MicroSkills Development Centre.

CBSR recognizes Coast Capital Savings for its contribution to the Seeing is Believing program.



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