

## News Release / Pour publication immédiate

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*For Immediate Release*

2007/December 3

### **Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network appoints Special Advisor on Health Equity**

**Toronto** –Board Chair Mohamed Dhanani announced today the secondment of Bob Gardner, PH.D., as Special Advisor, Health Equity, to the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) for a three-month period, beginning December 1, 2007.

“We are aware that there are inequities in access to health services across the LHIN,” said Mr. Dhanani. “The board has been committed to removing access to care barriers in our LHIN since its Community Engagement Strategy was first released in April 2006.

This summer the board created a task force to explore the issue in detail and find solutions. Dr. Gardner will help the board to develop the LHIN’s health equity framework, as a first step toward the creation of a local health care system that is responsive to the needs of consumers.”

Dr. Gardner is Director of Policy and Research at the Wellesley Institute, an independent non-profit research and policy institute working to advance urban health and health equity through community-based research, capacity building and policy development. Recently he has been leading research and policy development on health equity, LHINs, community engagement and other facets of health reform. He has been an academic, public sector executive and consultant, and has been active for many years in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and other community groups.

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The Toronto Central LHIN health equity framework will serve as a guide to decision-making at the LHIN and will assist health service providers in formulating their own plans. In September, the board directed hospitals within Toronto Central LHIN to prepare Health Equity Plans for submission to the LHIN by October 1, 2008.

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