



**Canadian e-Health Students Collaborative (CHSC):  
e-Health Conference 2006  
The Victoria Roundtable Summary Document**

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The Victoria Roundtable, held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 was a productive, creative and successful inaugural event. Approximately fifty individuals attended the dinner forum. All stakeholder groups (clinicians, students, industry, government, and academic faculty) were represented with most participants representing more than one group i.e. clinician and student, industry and academic, etc.

The evening began with a brief introduction and setting of the stage by organizing student committee chair, Selena Davis, followed by a thank you to our sponsors from Nancy Gabor, and a 20 minute warm up led by co-moderators from the University of Victoria Denis Protti (faculty) and Craig Kuziemsky (student).

The following question was posed to small groups of 5-8 participants comprising a mixture of representatives from the 5 key stakeholder groups:

***“What are the top 5 five ways in which healthcare industry and private sector can work with students and academics to move the e-Health agenda in Canada forward?”***

## **Summary:**

### **1. Key conceptual learnings:**

- **Lack of alignment on expectations for the e-Health Agenda.** The 'e-Health Agenda' is subjectively defined and often relates to professional objectives. Sectors and players within the e-Health environment need to better communicate their needs and expectations to move e-Health forward in Canada. This finding further supports the stated need to identify opportunities for collaboration across the spectrum of e-Health contributors to articulate and achieve linkages across the field.
- **Need for greater industry & academic collaboration.** To define research requirements, collaborate to develop project opportunities, communicate industry status and insight, requirements from academia / prospective employees.
- **Need for stronger student leadership.** As well as resources to support student programs
- **Need to leverage existing resources.** Such as co-op programs, national graduate programs, extend access to students across the country.

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- **Wide range of possible activities suggested.** These activities range from nurturing cross-sectoral partnerships to drive the articulation of a shared vision, the development of student leadership opportunities, the development of tools to support connectivity and sharing of ideas, development of cross-sectoral mentorship relationships, opportunities for academics to better prepare and present students in the job-market, as well as some specific ideas to get students working for experiential learning.

## 2. Recommendations:

The following ideas summarize the recommendations put forward by participants at the Victoria Roundtable.

### **1. Increase Partnerships between stakeholder groups:**

Industry/Academia: develop a better understanding of needs and resources in the e-Health marketplace.

- Identify research requirements needed to collaborate with Academia
- Articulate status / requirements
- Articulate employer requirements
- Identify project / human resource requirements

Academia/Industry: Collaborate throughout curriculum development

- Collaborate with industry chapters
- *Partner with existing organizations e.g. COACH, CST*

### **2. Support Student Leadership**

#### **a. Develop a formal e-Health Students Organization**

- Students to create and lead a formal organization in partnership with academia and industry, for students, involving all stakeholder groups with an interest in health informatics

#### **b. Enhance Conference opportunities relevant to students**

- Virtual student conferences/ seminars to be held on a regular basis.
- Publish / circulate list of conferences students might be interested in attending, and funding opportunities to support participation
- Students be encouraged / supported to attend a wide range of conferences including e-Health. (Informed / AMIA / IMIA / ITCH etc.)
- Create student/academic track at relevant conferences with a call for student posters/papers.

#### **c. Enhanced Student Competitions**

- Host an annual student competition addressing student innovation in e-Health Issues

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- Student paper/poster competitions

**d. Addition of Student Column to COACH journal**

- COACH to create a standing student column in Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada (COACH journal)

**3. Develop Tools for Connectivity**

**1. Create a multidisciplinary / multi-stakeholder clearinghouse / portal  
Components to include**

- Posted list of learning opportunities (wide range) - Academic, research, summer students, skills development, employment opportunities
- Create a database of granting opportunities, projects opportunities
- Create a comprehensive database of informatics programs

**2. Create a community of Practice searchable by keywords**

**4. Encourage Academic Innovation**

**a. Align and modify national eHealth curriculum**

- Maintain focus on experiential learning opportunities within existing curricula
- Leverage Co-op activities
  - Extend beyond Undergrad
  - Communicate widely
- Identify and match needs/priorities of industry with student skill sets

**b. Promote marketing of students**

- Work with student ehealth org. to create opportunities to promote marketing of students
- Create a graduating student service for employment purposes, linked with student e-health organization

**c. Enhance mentorship opportunities, both short and long term**

**d. Expand Programs/ Novel Project Ideas**

- Create a speakers bureau where faculty bring students with them to sessions
- Students to teach International Computer Driver's License (or equivalent) to industry (learning / teaching credits)

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- Student ethnography i.e. students sitting in on meetings at a company or government department to gain an understanding of the environment and learning through the process of being part of that environment

### 3. Next Steps:

The following strategies are recommended as priority activities for the e-Health Students Collaborative:

- **Dissemination of findings to stakeholders**
- **Feedback for strategy development.** Engage e-Health stakeholders from different regions & sectors across the country to identify methods where the collaborators and sponsors would be willing to be involved to support student career development, identify priority goals.
- **Goal Setting:** Identify main goal for student organization and select 2 – 3 projects in alignment with set objectives, bearing in mind resource offerings / opportunities presented by multi-sector stakeholders.
- **Development of Governance body for eHealth Student Collaborative**  
To ensure consistent growth within leadership evolution; to ensure consistent stewardship (i.e.: academic) to support consistent governance over time.