



CACHE
Canadian Association
of Continuing Health Education

ACEMC
Association canadienne
d'éducation médicale continue

Continuing Professional Development in Canada: A Collaborative Approach (Executive Summary)

Introduction

The Canadian Association of Continuing Health Education (CACHE) is exploring solutions to the changing environment within Canada's healthcare system through continuing health education (CHE). CACHE hosted a Canada-wide summit involving key stakeholders on October 2008. There was unanimous consensus to develop a sustainable CHE system, which defines appropriate processes and regulations that are balanced and mitigate bias from all sources.

Project

CACHE hosted a Canada-wide summit on October, 2008, which was attended by 147 participants, representing various CHE stakeholder groups: academics-30; professional regulatory bodies and government-7; professional associations-22; healthcare centres and specialty societies-35; industry-34; CACHE Executive Board and Fall Summit Coordinators-19. The Syntegrity Group facilitated interactions: three broad categories were discussed by 2 concurrent roundtable groups. Each roundtable discussion was 1 hour and involved 9 panelists (each team represented Academia, Industry, Government, and Professional Associations). The resulting 6 key statements were unanimously accepted by an electronic voting process at the 2009 CACHE Conference.

Results

Respondents were asked to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the collaborative CHE model, which included clinical practice, academia and industry. We heard that multi-sponsorship and collaboration will mitigate tensions as the healthcare system and healthcare professionals strive for common goals and improved outcomes. The respondents also articulated the need for communication strategies to address potential conflicts within the collaborative model.

Recommendation

CACHE recommends that we revisit a collaborative approach to continuing health education. In an era when the demands on the healthcare industry are increasing at an exponential rate, the need for collaboration is important. There was a unanimous consensus to develop a sustainable CHE system involving all key stakeholders.