

Community Workshops - February 2014

"Very useful in updating my knowledge and understanding of Hep B, Hep C, and HIV and the strategies and approaches to spreading the message in the community." – Participant, Toronto workshop

The CEC approached healthcare providers in each of the five immigrant ethnic communities selected for this project (Chinese, East Indian, Egyptian, Filipino, and Vietnamese) in five major Canadian cities (Calgary, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg) and briefed them about the objectives of the **"Hepatitis C and Other Related Communicable Diseases in High-Risk Immigrant Ethnic Communities"** project.



Workshop for members of the Chinese community in Calgary

Many of the 25 people selected had worked with the CEC on previous hepatitis C projects. These individuals agreed to be volunteer lead trainers who would educate people in their respective communities about the prevalence of hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV, their means of transmission, treatment, and prevention.

Over a two-day training session held in Ottawa in February 2014, and using resources the CEC had developed in partnership with the Canadian Liver Foundation, these healthcare workers had the opportunity to learn about these illnesses (though, for many, the training served more as a "refresher course") and share useful tips for training specific to their own communities.

Each lead trainer was then responsible for organizing a workshop in their home city with people from their community in February or March of 2014. They modified the training materials for their particular target audience. Some of the individuals who attended were healthcare or community care providers, whereas others were people from the community who had a personal interest in the illnesses. All of the attendees have the potential to share what they learned with others from their community in some professional or social capacity.

In total, 294 individuals attended the 25 workshops. Most found the information useful and realized that these illnesses pose a serious threat to their communities and that they should encourage community members to get tested for them:

"These workshops are very useful for all South Asian immigrants." – Participant, Winnipeg workshop

"Extremely informative and useful information (had no idea about the extent of these diseases)." – Participant, Toronto workshop

To see photos from the training sessions, please visit the CEC's Flickr profile