

Early notice! Registration has opened for the
**Psychology-Community Engagement:
Partnering for Social Change**

Toronto, Wednesday, August 5, 2009, 12:20-5pm

Please register early to attend this event!

Background

Partnering can take many forms, including partnership across disciplines, partnering with government agencies and, of course, traditional professional collaborations. This year, we are focusing on one type of partnering -- partnering with the community through Community Based Research. Community Based Research engages communities in defining relevant research questions, methods, and interventions and is a powerful way of ensuring that research and interventions are relevant to, and appropriate for, the communities for whom they are intended. It aims to create social change through the research *process* as well as the research findings.

Toronto, Canada, the site of the 2009 APA Convention, has a great depth in Community Based Participatory Research and community-academic partnerships. This has inspired an interdivisional initiative (including 11 APA divisions and the Office of Socioeconomic Status at APA) that takes advantage of the wealth of community partnerships in Toronto.

Community Visits on August 5th

On Wednesday, August 5th, psychologists will have the opportunity to visit two community engagement centres. Both are situated in a diverse and economically challenged Toronto neighbourhoods. The visit will include sessions with community agencies and community members from these neighbourhoods who will speak about the partnership projects that they have been involved with, and their experiences of partnership from the community side of the table. The bus trip to these communities will have guides from the two neighbourhoods who can provide information and history about these neighbourhoods and their own engagement with their neighbourhood, and with local research partnerships. (see <http://www.apa.org/convention09/program/social-change-program.html#part1> for more information)

In addition, there will be 20 sessions on community partnering at the APA convention that were contributed to this initiative by participating divisions (<http://www.apa.org/convention09/program/social-change-program.html#part2>)

Space is Limited -- Register ASAP

The Office of Socioeconomic Status of the APA Public Interest Directorate is handling registration for the 8/5 pre-conference community visits. The registration just went live and we are sending you advance notice.

The preconference visit will be limited to 60 participants and costs \$25. If you would like to attend, please register soon!

You can obtain more information and register for the pre-conference community visits at <http://www.apa.org/convention09/program/social-change.html>