

# SAVE THE DATE CALL FOR PRESENTERS AND COLLABORATIVE SESSION FACILITATORS



Occupational Health  
Clinics for Ontario  
Workers Inc.



## 2017 Ontario Migrant Farm Worker Health Forum

April 21 – 22, 2017 – Brock University, St. Catharines, On

*A unique opportunity to come together, share best practices, and explore innovative ideas to improve the health of migrant farm workers*

Nearly 40,000 migrant farmworkers (MFWs) come to Canada each year to work in the agriculture industry, with approximately 24 000 arriving to Ontario. The health of these workers is strongly influenced by their experience of migration, their living and work environments, and their access to health care and health and safety support. These workers face many access barriers, including language, isolation, intimidation, and disconnect from available services. Many service providers have not yet connected to these communities; those who have are challenged with the task of ensuring services reflect unique needs. Stating

OHCOW's annual forum aims to bring together a wealth of experience from across the province. The 2016 event was lauded by attendees as highly informative, useful and innovative.

This year we are excited to be partnering with Brock University. We recognize that Niagara is the region to where the first migrant farm workers started to arrive under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) in 1966, and to where thousands continue to arrive every year. Niagara is also a region which has a long history of service providers, organizations and community groups working with and in support of migrant farm worker communities, and is therefore a well of insight, experience and best practices.

### **We are calling for abstract submissions for presentations and workshops, as well as for collaborative sessions.**

**Presentations and workshops:** Present on service provision, projects and programs, best practices, research results, timely issues or insights. Approx. 30min-45min.

**Collaborative Sessions:** Organize and facilitate a dynamic session focused on collaboratively identifying challenges and developing and sharing practical solutions. These sessions are participant lead with your facilitation. Approx. 40min-1 hour. *Allocated times may change during scheduling process.*

#### **Areas of focus:**

- Occupational Health and Safety concerns and hazards
- Mental Health
- Oral health
- Innovative outreach strategies
- Meaningful participation and direction from migrant farm workers
- Innovative work by Community Health Centres
- WSIB-Information for clinicians and service providers
- Understanding health care coverage
- Clinical issues
- Working with interpreters
- Recreation and wellbeing
- Migrant worker housing
- Nutrition support
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Transportation challenges and strategies
- Social integration and confronting racism
- Employer outreach and collaboration
- Needs assessments and data collection
- Immigration policies
- Policy and government responses
- Advocacy
  - ❖ Other topics welcomed

## Submissions

Include:

1. Completed submission form
2. Short bio

Send submissions to [ehuesca@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:ehuesca@ohcow.on.ca)

Registration for forum attendees will open in early 2017

We also invite groups to set up table displays that describe programs or initiatives, or share resources

For more information contact: Eduardo Huesca [Ehuesca@ohcow.on.ca](mailto:Ehuesca@ohcow.on.ca)

For Brock University contacts please send email to [iblayer@brocku.ca](mailto:iblayer@brocku.ca) and/or [csantos@brocku.ca](mailto:csantos@brocku.ca)

*This Forum is organized by The Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers in partnership with Brock University and the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC).*



Association of Ontario Health Centres  
Community-governed primary health care  
Association des centres de santé de l'Ontario  
Soins de santé primaires gérés par la communauté

