

## **Access Alliance to Host Free Events on October 4<sup>th</sup> for Community Health Week**

**For Immediate Release**

**September 26, 2012**

(Toronto, ON): Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services will be hosting free events on Thursday, October 4th in celebration of Community Health Week at its east and west end locations. Community members will join to share food prepared by program participants and get information on how they can access programs and services aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of families. Come and find out about the exciting new programming recently launched for school aged children.

- At AccessPoint on Danforth (3079 Danforth Ave at Victoria Park) we will be celebrating from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm with **The Fall Harvest Festival** in the rooftop garden, a first for Community Health Centres in Ontario to have an intensive Green Roof.
- At AccessPoint on Jane (761 Jane St, 2nd floor) from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, the event is **For the Love of Reading: Literacy for Healthy Families** with a guest librarian from the Toronto Public Library.

The Rooftop garden is an initiative made possible by a three year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. A leading grant maker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. (For more information, please visit the website at: [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca).)

These events are part of Community Health Week (October 1-5) being organized by the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres and by the Association of Ontario Health Centres, which represents Ontario's 73 Community Health Centres, 10 Aboriginal Health Access Centres, 16 Community Family Health Teams and 4 Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics. These centres are all governed by community members who ensure services are oriented to the specific needs of the diverse communities being served.

Each of the Community Health Week special events being organized across Ontario will highlight the importance of increasing the province's capacity to deliver community-based health services and also to ensure community members are directly engaged in how those services are designed and delivered.

A commitment to an increased focus on community-based services was a key component of the provincial government's recently released [Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care](#). Minister of Health and Long-term Care, Deb Matthews has repeatedly stated her government's commitment to increase support to community-based services and has promised to increase community-based funding by four per cent this year.

At the Access Alliance, we take our programs into the community and meet people where they are – providing services “*in our community, with our community*” and work towards achieving Minister Matthews action plan.

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*Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services works to promote health, wellbeing and improved access to services for immigrants and refugees in Toronto. From three locations in the city, we offer resources, provide links, conduct research and build capacity to enable individuals, families and communities to achieve health with dignity. Our range of programs, services, advocacy and partnerships address medical, social, economic, environmental, settlement and integration issues for immigrants of all ages at all stages of their life. Find out more about our work at [www.accessalliance.ca](http://www.accessalliance.ca).*

