

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations (hereafter, CACHCA)

AND

European Forum for Primary Care (hereafter, EFPC)

AND

United States National Association of Community Health Centers (hereafter, NACHC)

WITH RESPECT TO

Establishment of an International Federation of Community Health Centres



Canadian Alliance of  
Community Health Centre  
Associations



Regroupement canadien  
des associations de centres  
communautaires de santé

**PREAMBLE:**

CACHCA, EFPC and NACHC are membership associations representing organizations in Canada, the United States and throughout Europe that deliver community-oriented primary health care services and programs. Although they take a variety of formal names depending on the jurisdiction in which they are situated, these community-oriented primary health care organizations are generally understood and described as the Community Health Centre (CHC) model of care.

The following is a list of core values and characteristics that define this “Community Health Centre (CHC) model of care”. This is considered to be a minimal, but non-exclusive list. Therefore, additional values and characteristics may pertain to Community Health Centre organizations in different jurisdictions. The core values and characteristics of the “CHC model of care” include:

- A team-based approach to primary health care, including collaborative, patient-centred care delivered by diverse health promotion and healthcare professionals; and
- A holistic approach to health and health care, wherein clinical primary care services are integrated with individual and group health promotion programs and community health initiatives, in alignment with World Health Organization (WHO) definitions of “health” and “primary health care”; and
- An emphasis on illness prevention and mitigation, including commitment to addressing the broader causes of illness, known as “social determinants of health”; and
- A belief that health and access to appropriate health care are fundamental human rights; and
- A commitment to equity and social inclusion as guiding principles for action in health promotion and health care; and
- A strong emphasis on community engagement and civic participation in health and health care, often including community and client/patient participation in governance of health care organizations.

As a result of these shared values and this holistic approach to health, wellness and health care, CACHCA, EFPC and NACHC have initiated several lines of communication and knowledge-sharing to date. In June 2011, these exchanges were given further prominence at an international conference of Community Health Centres hosted in Toronto, Canada, during which delegates from around the world called for formalization of a global alliance of Community Health Centres and their membership associations.

**AGREEMENT:**

Given the foregoing, CACHCA, EFPC and NACHC hereby agree to:

1. Initiate dialogue in which all parties commit to exploring the potential for establishment of a formalized, global alliance of Community Health Centres and their associations; and
2. Accept the list of core values and characteristics described in the preamble, above, as a working definition for the term “community health centre” within the context of dialogue pertaining to establishment of a global alliance of Community Health Centres; and
3. Refer to said global alliance, in the interim, as the “International Federation of Community Health Centres”, for the sake of consistency and clarity; and

4. Undertake discussions, internally within each party to this agreement, regarding the resources (financial and other) which each party would be able and willing to bring to bear in establishing an International Federation of Community Health Centres; and
5. Collectively undertake to identify other partner organizations/associations for possible inclusion in an International Federation of Community Health Centres, based on the non-exclusive list of core values and characteristics listed above, in the preamble.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE FOLLOWING HAVE AFFIXED THEIR SIGNATURES TO THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN TRIPLICATE:



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Tom Van Coverden  
President and CEO – National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)  
THIS, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011



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Dr. Jan De Maeseneer  
Chairman – European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC)  
THIS, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011



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Dr. Jane Moloney  
Chairperson – Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations (CACHCA)  
THIS, THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2011