

# News Release



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BRIDGEPOINT Health  
[www.bridgepointhealth.ca](http://www.bridgepointhealth.ca)

**For Immediate Release**

## **HSBC Bank Canada donates \$250,000 to Bridgepoint Health for Chronic Disease and Disabilities Education**

HSBC Bank Canada has donated \$250,000 to Bridgepoint Health to support the health network's new education program for the next generation of health care professionals.

"This generous gift from HSBC Bank Canada is an important milestone for us," said Marian Walsh, President and CEO, Bridgepoint Health. "This gift gives us the momentum and funds we need to change the way medical, nursing and allied students learn how to treat people with complex chronic disease and disability."

The donation will be used to contribute to the creation of a new Complex Chronic Disease Education program for University of Toronto students at Bridgepoint Health.

"The University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine believes in leading through partnership, and that strength is embodied in this collaboration with Bridgepoint," says Dr. Catharine Whiteside, MD PhD FRCPC Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. "With the donation from HSBC Bank Canada, we know the new Complex Chronic Disease Education program will provide a unique, high quality educational program for our students."

The innovative new education program will make a major contribution to Bridgepoint becoming a leading center for learning about complex chronic disease and disability management.

"The HSBC Group believes in improving access to education. Each year, this donation will allow medical students who are studying at the University of Toronto to participate in the chronic disease management program at Bridgepoint Health," said Jon Hountalas, Executive Vice President, Commercial Banking, HSBC Bank Canada. "And there is clearly a need. According to a Statistics Canada survey in 2001, 87 per cent of Canadians over age 67 reported that they had at least one chronic illness."

Bridgepoint Health is not alone in observing this critical need to re-orient our health care system towards preventing and managing chronic disease. In 2002, the World Health Organization declared chronic disease to be the major health care challenge facing the developed world in the twenty first century.

2006/07 marked the first year in which there was clear province-wide and nation-wide energy building for this theme of preventing and managing chronic disease. The Annual Reports of both the Health Council of Canada and the Ontario Health Quality Council emphasized the urgency around reorienting our system to effectively manage chronic disease.

“HSBC is an innovator – like Bridgepoint. And the fact that they are willing to make the difference today for tomorrow’s health professionals to thrive in the new frontier is outstanding,” said Terrance Slobodian, President and CEO of the Bridgepoint Health Foundation.

Bridgepoint Health is located on the east side of Toronto and is one of Canada’s largest integrated healthcare networks providing a continuum of care for individuals living with **complex chronic disease and disability**. Bridgepoint Hospital is slated for redevelopment and in the process of building a new, world-class facility. Bridgepoint Health comprises four groups: Bridgepoint Hospital, Bridgepoint Community Rehab (a not for profit community based rehabilitation service), Bridgepoint Health Centre for Research, Education and Policy, and the Bridgepoint Health Foundation. For more information visit [www.bridgepointhealth.ca](http://www.bridgepointhealth.ca)

HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, has more than 170 offices and is the leading international bank in Canada. With around 10,000 offices in 82 countries and territories and assets of US\$1,861 billion at 31 December 2006, the HSBC Group is one of the world’s largest banking and financial services groups. For more information about HSBC Bank Canada visit [www.hsbc.ca](http://www.hsbc.ca)

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