

# **CLEAR CONFERENCE 2003 TORONTO, CANADA**

## **HEALTH ISSUES ROUNDTABLE**

This lively discussion was very well attended and offered the opportunity for discussion about a variety of issues affecting regulators of health professionals.

What follows are two lists generated through the discussion. The first list is comprised of specific issues that were identified as matters that should be examined and addressed in some way by regulators. The second list lays out some of the potential solutions or ideas that may hold promise for addressing some of the issues.

The group agreed that many solutions may best occur in the presence of some collaborative approaches between various stakeholders of other jurisdictions.

### **ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

- Increased use of Unregulated Care providers / assistants
- Under serviced areas e.g. Urban vs. Rural
- Increasingly higher standards for admission into the profession
- Increased number of illegal practitioners
- Increasing challenges around the determination of credentials and the volume of foreign educated professionals
- Jurisdictional issues including the lack of reciprocal agreements
- Increasing workloads of professionals
- Compensation issues where reimbursement doesn't match level of responsibility
- Health care funding: the private vs. public issue

## **POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS OR TOOLS**

- More scholarships to encourage prospective students toward professions experiencing shortages
- Encourage overlapping scopes of practice
- Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution to allow for opportunities to address environmental and systems issues in complaints
- Look for ways to reduce burnout by addressing environmental issues
- Look to high school students to target them for recruitment into professions
- Look for collaborative approaches where educators, regulators and professional associations can work together
- Examine ways to streamline licensure
- Must look for avenues to allow expanded scopes of practice to be implemented widely
- Positive public relations efforts
- Recognize that retention is as important as recruitment
- Regulators must recognize that they cannot fix everything nor should they feel they must.