

Outcomes

■ **Key themes identified**

- **DEFINITIONS** matter: challenge stereotypes of rural and remote care; emphasize strengths, not limitations
- **GENDER** matters: provide more services and better access for women; ensure more understanding of men's care needs in rural and remote places
- **PLACE** matters: acknowledge the dynamic nature of local contexts; indigenous communities are integral
- **CONNECTIONS** matter: we need to talk across disciplines and other boundaries to share and debate issues of concern

■ **Participant recommendations**

- Stay connected with **CFN** attendees
 - ✓ Action: Ongoing links
- Extend connections to other community organizations
 - ✓ Action: Report distributed to suggested recipients
- Hold a second symposium
 - Interested in organizing a second **CFN** symposium?
Please contact Trish Pilotte,
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■ **Publications**

- Please watch our website for details:
http://www3.telus.net/public/wnn/CFN_Symposium.htm

Sponsors

- Office of Research, UNBC
- Geography Program, UNBC
- Social Work Program, UNBC
- BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network
- BC Network for Aging Research
- Women's Health Research Network
- Women North Network
- Canadian Rural and Remote Health Association

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Website*: http://www3.telus.net/public/wnn/CFN_Symposium.htm

*hosted by Women North Network

Caring for the North

An international
symposium on
gender, care
& northern places

June 7-8, 2006

SUMMARY REPORT

D. Thien & T. Pilotte, 2006

In northern communities,

changing social, political, and economic contexts have resulted in shifting perceptions of both 'gender' and 'care' – changes that have significant consequences for northern residents. ***Caring for the North*** created a forum for researchers and community partners to address fundamental issues of gender and care as they affect the well-being of people in the north.

Professor Liz Bondi, Institute of Geography & Counselling Studies Program, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, gave the international keynote address: *Caring for the North: Care relationships and counselling in remote Scottish communities*.



Speakers at *Caring for the North* (CFN)

presented in three dynamic themed sessions:

- Gender & Care
- Rural Health & Gender
- Northern People; Northern Viewpoints

National speakers included Denise Cloutier-Fisher, Geography, University of Victoria; Valorie Crooks, Geography, Simon Fraser; Jean Shoveller, Healthcare and Epidemiology, University of BC; and Cindy Jardine, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta.

UNBC's northern expertise was represented by Neil Hanlon, Geography; Dawn Hemingway, Social Work, BC Network on Aging Research; Martha MacLeod, Nursing & Community Health; and Sarah de Leeuw, Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs.

Additional perspectives were offered by Prince George poet, Jacqueline Baldwin; Margo Greenwood, Academic Leader, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health; and Christina McLennan, Women North Network.

A collaborative process

is crucial for generating meaningful research outcomes. **Participants** at ***Caring for the North*** included students, faculty, social and health researchers and practitioners, and community members. A 10-minute question period and a 20-minute small group discussion after each session enabled participants to engage in short, focused discussion, and to generate research questions, themes, and directions. Participant evaluation forms indicated the success of this methodology:

“Opportunities for discussion were fabulous!”

“[CFN] exceeded my expectations.”

