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April 3, 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MHA Diabetes Education Centre poster Highlights Conference

A poster highlighting the success of last June's Aboriginal Diabetes Conference, *Diabetes - Caring for You and Your Community*, was featured at a national conference on Diabetes and Aboriginal Peoples held in Ottawa in March.

The conference held in Moraviantown last June, *Diabetes - Caring for You and Your Community* was organized by the MHA Diabetes Education Centre (DEC) and its partners in the First Nations community.

Attending the Ottawa conference were the DEC program manager, Alison Lenny and DEC RN, Vicky McNaughton. Two of the other planning partners from *Diabetes - Caring for You and Your Community* attended the Ottawa conference; Barb Whiteye and Marilyn Tobias. Barb is the Diabetes Prevention Coordinator with the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI), Western Region and Marilyn is the First Nations Community Health Representative (CHR) from the Delaware Health Centre in Moraviantown.

"Both Vicky and I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Aboriginal diabetes at this conference in order to be able to apply these insights to our work with local Aboriginal partners," Alison Lenny, says.

This was the fifth year for this national Diabetes Conference and this year's theme was Restoring Balance. The conference was hosted by the National Aboriginal Diabetes Association

(NADA) and SOADI in collaboration with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapirit Kanatami, Metis National Council and Native Women's Association of Canada. Other attendees at this conference included healthcare practitioners and administrators in Aboriginal healthcare.

The poster presented by the MHA's DEC and its partners highlighted the successes experienced in collaborating with Aboriginal community leaders to produce *Diabetes - Caring for You and Your Community* last June in Moraviantown. Registration for the one day event exceeded expectations with more than 250 people attending.

For information about the Diabetes Education Centre classes and clinics, visit the MHA website at www.mhalliance.on.ca