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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton Urban Core Joins Project to Pilot Test WHO Standards for Equity in Health Care

HAMILTON – Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is one of seven organizations in Canada to participate in a project initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to pilot-test Standards for Equity in Healthcare for Migrants and Other Vulnerable Groups. Seven countries have confirmed their participation in the WHO initiative, including Canada – the only country outside Europe.

Building on previous instruments, the Standards for Equity in Healthcare include measurable indicators for each of five domains: Equity in Policy, Equitable Access and Utilisation, Equitable Quality of Care, Community involvement and Promoting Equity. The pilot sites, including Hamilton Urban Core, will be evaluating the standards. It is expected that the final project will take place between February and April 2012.

“We are very excited about this project” says Denise Brooks, Executive Director at Hamilton Urban Core. “The project is clearly connected to the client population we serve and aligned with the Centre’s commitment to health equity. It is also consistent with the equity priorities at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Local Health Integration Networks.”

The pilot sites will be able to use this process to help identify gaps in service, barriers, and risks to clients and the organization. “We see this as an opportunity for Hamilton Urban Core to develop further knowledge on how to improve access and reduce barriers to quality of care for diverse populations in the inner city” comments Maciej Kowalski, Community Health Programs Manager. “We look forward to sharing what we learn from this experience with other organizations and health providers.”

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is a fully accredited thriving inner city health centre and leader in the provision of high-quality primary health care services, health promotion programs and community development and has 15 years of experience delivering services to individuals and families in Hamilton.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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