



# A M H B

ALBERTA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

... Advancing Mental Health

# Mental Health Research Program Progress Update

September/October 2007



Photo courtesy of the Rimrock Resort Hotel website

## **Last chance to register! The Mental Health Research Showcase is nearly sold out**

The 3rd annual Mental Health Research Showcase will take place on November 21-23rd, 2007 at the Rimrock Resort Hotel, Banff Alberta.

This year's Showcase will be hosted by the Alberta Mental Health Board in partnership with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), BC Mental Health and Addictions Services and Saskatchewan Health.

Advance programs are available at [http://www.buksa.com/showcase2/docs/Showcase07\\_AdvProgram.pdf](http://www.buksa.com/showcase2/docs/Showcase07_AdvProgram.pdf)

Register online at <http://www.buksa.com/showcase2/registration.htm>

### **Contact information**

For information about the Mental Health Research Partnership Program contact:

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## **Alberta Summer Employment Research Program (ASERP) – a great success**

This past summer, the Program supported 22 university students to work on new and ongoing research activities with Regional Health Authorities, non-profit organizations and Aboriginal community groups. Students were engaged in a variety of activities including: chart reviews, ethics applications, literature reviews, data entry, writing abstracts, manuscripts, reports, developing posters for presentations, designing questionnaires conducting evaluations, interviews, data collection, verification, and analysis.

All of the employers who responded to the Program evaluation survey agreed that the students demonstrated the skills necessary to complete projects and several employers noted that the students' performance exceeded their expectations.

There was also unanimous agreement that they would apply to participate in the 2008 ASERP Program. One employer commented that, "It is a much needed program that not only supports organizations that may not otherwise be able to take students, but it also gives students more opportunities to gain relevant work experience."

All of the students who responded to the evaluation indicated that the research position made them more aware of mental health issues; they increased their interest in the field of mental health, and their knowledge and skills in research processes.



## **Chair candidates visit Alberta**

Four superb candidates for the Alberta Centennial Mental Health Research Chairs Program visited Alberta in September and October. Candidates spent one day at each of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge, where they presented their research findings, as well their vision of a program of research to advance mental health in the province. The Universities are now engaging in discussions with the potential Chair candidates to explore mutual goals and interests in relation to the research priorities of the Alberta Mental Health Research Partnership Program.