

# REPORT ON THE 2002 CES-ONTARIO CHAPTER CONFERENCE

## Economic Evaluations for Non-Economists

April 8, 2002

### Nicole Steward, Conference 2002 Chair

I thought it best to begin this summary with some feedback we received from delegates on this year's annual conference:

*"Very nice venue; topic is excellent. Would have liked to go to all presentations."*

*"Great to have this opportunity to get updated & meet others involved in evaluation"*

One of the advantages of being the author of this short article is that I get to pick and choose which comments to include in my summary! Not to worry, anyone interested in the constructive criticisms we received on the conference can find them in the conference [evaluation report](#), found off the conference webpage.

The purpose of this year's conference was to help clarify some of the basic concepts involved with most economic evaluations, such as cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit, and to delve into subjects such as data mining and predictive modeling for the seasoned veterans of economic evaluations.

The conference began with the keynote speaker, Graham Clyne, who gave a riveting and interactive presentation on the Prevention Dividend Project. Graham Clyne's presentation can be found at the following site: [www.prevention-dividend.com/en/events/conference\\_outlines.htm#Clyne](http://www.prevention-dividend.com/en/events/conference_outlines.htm#Clyne)

After the keynote speaker, delegates were given their choice in attending 1 of 4 all-day workshops on various topics of economic evaluations. Some of the speakers' presentations are available on our [Conference Page](#).

As in previous years, this year's conference was organized and run entirely by CES Board members and volunteers. It is through the generous donations of time and effort on the part of speakers and organizers that the Ontario Chapter of the CES can provide professional development events such as the annual conference at such a low cost to members. I want to thank the following individuals for all their time and hard work on this year's conference:

#### *The Conference Committee:*

Elana Gray, Candace Nykiforuk, Jon Postlethwaite, Wendy Young and Rochelle Zorzi

#### *The Student Volunteers:*

Elaine Stavnitzky, Christine O'Malley, Paul Parsons, and Alisa Kosolvijak

#### *The Speakers:*

Graham Clyne, Dr. Harry Cummings & Don Murray, Dr. Colin Preyra, Michael Chettleburgh, and Dr. Ronald Wall

If anyone is interested in helping out with next year's conference (perhaps even volunteering for the coveted role of "Chair"), I would encourage you to contact the [CES Board of Directors](#) for details on how you can get involved.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Introduction

The Canadian Evaluation Society is a Canada-wide non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of evaluation theory and practice. Each year the Ontario Chapter has a conference in April to promote and facilitate the enhancement of evaluation capacity for members and non-members.

The theme of the 2002 Conference is 'Economic Evaluations for Non-Economists'. Distinguished speakers from government, academia, and the private sector will provide participants with an opportunity to learn and apply economic principles and methods. A combination of didactic presentations and group discussion will be used. The group discussions will emphasize ways that participants can overcome the barriers to initiating, managing or conducting economic evaluations.

This conference will be of value to all participants interested in describing the impacts of programs.

### Conference Objectives

- To increase participants' understanding of the key principles and methodologies of an economic evaluation including cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis and cost-utility analysis
- To illustrate how these methodologies have been used in the real world
- To interactively discuss the possible application of economic methodologies to participants' projects

### Target Audiences

- Program and policy decision makers requesting or managing evaluations
- Evaluators interested in conducting economic evaluations

The following speaker notes are available for download from the chapter annual conference webpage:

**Graham Clyne**  
*Keynote Speaker*

**Colin Preyra**  
*Evidence Based Decision Making and the Large Scale Evaluation of a Public Program: The Ontario Hospital Funding Formula*

**Harry Cummings & Don Murray**  
*A Kinder, Gentler, Simpler Economic Impact Assessment Process*