MEDIA RELEASE
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Successful First Workshop for the Rural Nurses Network Leeds, Grenville, Lanark

On May 24 over 20 local community health nurses attended the"Laying the Groundwork" workshop sponsored by the Health Unit's Nursing Professional Practice Council and Country Roads CHC, as well as funding from the Community Health Nurses Initiative Group. These RN's and RPN's work in Nurse Practitioner-led clinics, home health agencies, Community Health Centers, Community Care Access Centers, and the Health Unit. The theme of the workshop was Professionalism in Nursing.

Participants completed small group work examining "slippery slope behaviours"; innocent situations nurses sometimes find themselves in that have potential to grow into serious professional boundary issues. Participants also examined some of the nursing standards with outreach consultants from the College of Nurses of Ontario and applied them to real work examples.

Feedback from participants indicated that the workshop filled a need for professional development and supported new partnerships and learning opportunities.

> "This was wonderful. We always go to in services about medications or new procedures, but this was about us as professionals."

All nurses are required to maintain their skills and knowledge, but in rural communities, travel and accommodation costs, as well as lost work time can be barriers for nurses to participate in professional development activities. The goal of the Rural Nurses Network is to increase the professional development opportunities among rural community health nurses in Leeds Grenville and Lanark Counties and to help build relationships among nurses.

More about the Rural Nurses Network project and workshop resources can be found at:
http://www.healthunit.org/professionals/ruralnursing/

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