

Press Release

Preparing Medical Volunteers for Their Work in Developing Countries: A Roundtable on Best Practices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, ON February 3, 2016

Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) is hosting a discussion on best practices for managing Canadian volunteers traveling for medical missions.

On February 11, 2016, from 9:00 – 11:00 am, EST CPAR is hosting a Roundtable discussion on how best to prepare and manage Canadian medical volunteers going to developing countries

Each year thousands of Canadian health care providers and medical students travel to developing countries on capacity building opportunities. Pre-departure onboarding, in country orientation and post-trip debriefing are all critical components in preparing volunteers to approach their work confidently and independently and maximize the benefits of their experience for themselves and their hosts.

Academic institutions, NGOs and a representative from the Ministry of Health in Africa will be participating in the kitchen table style discussion in an effort to learn from each other on how best to improve their own processes and better benefit the communities being served.

Participants will also explore how to use long distance learning technology to prepare and support volunteers and reduce costs, and better coordinate activities amongst sending organizations to avoid duplication. Participants will also have the opportunity to raise any other issues they would like to discuss.

For more information, including how to participate in the roundtable in person or remotely, contact Dusanka Pavlica at dpavlica@cpar.ca

About Canadian Physicians for Aid & Relief:

Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) is a non-profit development organization that supports community efforts to address the determinants of health by ensuring sustainable access to clean water and adequate food, improving hygiene and sanitation, creating secure livelihoods and improving access to primary health care. CPAR works with community members in some of the most remote rural areas in Malawi, Ethiopia and Tanzania to implement long-term sustainable programs that are focused on real grassroots change. We work with community members to provide access to life's most basic needs despite challenges that might be posed by the environment or infrastructure.