

SEMINAR

**Activating Citizens:
Building Capacity for Education & Health**
Geraldine (Jody) Macdonald

Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Claude T. Bissell Building, 140 St. George at Sussex
Room BL-114

www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/communitydevelopment.html

This seminar presents a case study of transformative citizenship learning during the building of an urban high school in Toronto – a story that illustrates some of the links between education, health, and citizen participation.

A Canadian federal military educational facility in midtown Toronto was suddenly and inexplicably offered for sale in spring 1994. After explaining the process used by the Canadian federal government to sell federal land in municipalities, Jody Macdonald will describe her response as the chair of the Parent-Teacher association at a local Catholic elementary school, and the resistance generated in the community surrounding the proposed new high school.

The resistance energized the high school supporters, generated a new community of active citizens, and provided a setting for transformative learning. The supporters made the journey from promoters of a project for an unnamed high school to witnessing the opening of the high school and finally, ten years later, seeing their

efforts result in a treasured high school in the neighbourhood.

Jody Macdonald is a senior lecturer in the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, and is cross-appointed to the Centre for Health Promotion, Department of Theory & Policy, OISE/UT. She co-ordinates the Clinical Nursing Field in the Master of Nursing Program, and is Vice-President of Internal & External Affairs, University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA).

Her area of expertise is Health in the Community and her research, teaching, and practice activities all develop her focus on “Creating A Culture of Peace.” Arts-based diversity learning is a particular interest. Other initiatives include promoting interprofessional and interdisciplinary learning, promoting awareness of the links between environment and health, and supporting transformational unlearning and transformational learning.