



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2011

**PUBLIC EVENT:  
HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS**



“Homelessness and mental illness are not just issues of housing and health,” says Dr. Michelle Patterson, “They involve a complex set of factors related to social justice, identity, and community.”

Dr. Patterson is the featured speaker at the next NSSS Public Education Evening on **Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Lions Gate Hospital.**

Homelessness of the mentally ill continues to be a pressing concern in Greater Vancouver.

Dr. Patterson is a scientist and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. Her research interests focus on the intersection of housing, mental illness and substance abuse.

She'll explain in her talk how researchers go about estimating the size and scope of the homeless population and explore the cycle many people with mental illness go through: from the criminal justice system, shelters and hospitals to living on the street.

In addition to her work at SFU, Dr. Patterson is the Research Coordinator for the Vancouver At Home/Chez Soi demonstration project, sponsored by the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The project will examine which services and systems best serve people coping with mental illness and homelessness. Vancouver is one of five project sites across the country. The project here is focusing on those with concurrent disorders: substance abuse or addiction in addition to mental illness.

The talk is part of North Shore Schizophrenia Society's long-running series on serious mental illness and related topics. These events are free and open to the public.

- 30 -

**Media Contact:**

---

Cheryl Olney  
Executive Director  
604-926-0856 / 604-340-6549  
[cheryl@northshoreschizophrenia.org](mailto:cheryl@northshoreschizophrenia.org)