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## MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE STUDENTS INSPIRE EXHIBITION ABOUT SPANISH FLU

**Medicine Hat** – The Esplanade Archives announces a partnership with the Medicine Hat College Division of Health Studies to produce and present a photographic and documentary exhibition entitled *The Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918: A Global and Local Catastrophe*, which is on display in the Esplanade Gallery Foyer until August.

The exhibition is based on research by four Medicine Hat College students about the history of the Spanish Influenza, led by Dr. Florence Melchior, Nursing Instructor at the Medicine Hat College.

“What if 500 young healthy adults from this city died within the next few months? That is the equivalent of what happened in 1918. Localizing history helps us to learn from the past and prepare for the future,” says Dr. Melchior.

To complement National Nursing Week (May 7-13, 2007), Dr. Melchior will give an informal public presentation about the history of the Spanish Influenza, how it affected Medicine Hat, and what can be learned from this past crisis when facing the threat of future pandemics. This presentation will take place **Thursday, May 10 from 2 – 4 p.m.** in the Esplanade Gallery Foyer. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

Dr. Melchior is known for researching and writing about the history of nursing in Canada.

This exhibition was made possible through a partnership between the Esplanade Archives and Health Studies, Medicine Hat College.

Research for *The Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918: A Global and Local Catastrophe* was conducted by:

- Dr. Florence Melchior, principle investigator
- Susan Johnson, co-investigator
- Marlene Olson, co-investigator
- Shannon O’Neil, co-investigator
- Tamara Richardson, co-investigator, and
- Dr. Donald Flaming, Nursing Research Instructor



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National Nursing Week 2007

