Psychosis is a serious mental disorder; a common sub-type can be diagnosed as schizophrenia. Psychosis can effect youth at a critical time in their psychosocial and cognitive development. Youth with psychosis can have an arrest or regression of skills that are necessary for achieving independent living, adult relationships, and career development. Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) was developed in early 1990’s as an innovative approach that brought hope and recovery to individuals experiencing early stages of psychosis.

Early clinical research\(^1\) indicate that EPI may improve outcomes, helping youth reclaim their lives. Among the international best practices\(^2\) for EPI are early identification and access to care; comprehensive assessment and case management. The goals of EPI are to reduce the length of illness, decrease the impact of psychosis on psychosocial functioning and to support family and friends so that social relationships remain intact\(^3\). One of the basic challenges of EPI programs for rural populations is translating best practice which was developed for urban high population density areas for rural and remote settings\(^4\). During this presentation, participants will learn about research initiatives that address questions about:

1. The challenges and successes of program implementation and development from the perspective of program decision-makers
2. Evaluation of an education and training program with the aim of increasing capacity among (non-medical) mental health workers in northern and remote rural regions
3. Pilot outcomes data of two different models of rural EPI practice in Ontario

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**Reference List**
