

## **Groundbreaking Arthritis Summit, November 1-3**

This year will be remembered as a significant milestone for Canadians with arthritis, as decades of research and evidence are translated into a definitive plan of action.

This fall, the ***Summit on Standards for Arthritis Prevention and Care (SAPC)*** will bring together representatives from throughout Canada's arthritis community – including formal and informal care givers, health care providers, government (federal and provincial), arthritis researchers and clinicians, voluntary associations, the pharmaceutical industry, and people with arthritis – to develop definitive national standards for arthritis prevention and care.

The Summit will take place November 1-3, 2005, at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

Approximately 250 participants will take part, bringing together the collective knowledge and commitment of the arthritis community, to consolidate thoughts and ideas and to move forward cohesively and effectively.

The overall objective of the Summit is to come up with concrete, clear and definitive recommendations for government – pragmatic, actionable, evidence-based standards for arthritis prevention and care.

A Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from a wide cross-section of arthritis stakeholders, has been formed to develop the format, structure and content for the Summit, and to determine the Summit's participants. More than ever before, people with arthritis will be strongly represented, in planning, attending and promoting the Summit, and in helping to shape its recommendations.

SAPC will be the culmination of "Rock This Joint 2005 – Bringing Together Arthritis Knowledge and Action," an initiative that will see eight days of high-level arthritis meetings in Ottawa this fall. In addition to the Summit, "Rock This Joint" includes the Bone and Joint Decade World Network Conference (October 27-29) and the Canadian Arthritis Network's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference (October 29-31).

"Rock This Joint" is an initiative of the Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program (ACAP). ACAP was formed two years ago, when the organizations working to help people with arthritis live better lives joined together. More than 30 organizations are involved, and while each group continues its own work, ACAP provides a central focus for all arthritis-related initiatives.

While "Rock This Joint" will culminate with the Summit, it will be no means end there. ACAP is committed to following through on the standards – continuing to work with government to ensure their implementation in the months and years ahead.