



Newsletter

March 2026 - From Advocacy to Action

We are pleased to connect with all members and organizational supporters. In this issue, we share key updates on our collective efforts to support culturally responsive mental health care.

UHN Board of Trustees Meeting – February 25, 2026

On February 25, 2026, leaders of RE-AIM, Dr. Ted Lo, Dr. Josephine Wong, and Dr. Joseph Wong, supported by our working group leaders Ms. Judy San and Dr. Christina Lee, attended the UHN Board of Trustees meeting to present a deputation regarding the closure of the Asian Initiative in Mental Health (AIM).

We are deeply grateful to the thousands of individuals and more than 60 organizations who signed petitions or provided endorsements to raise concerns about this issue, which has significantly impacted Chinese communities.

The closure of AIM has created a critical gap in culturally responsive mental health services. AIM's bilingual and bicultural care model was highly effective in improving patient outcomes while reducing emergency visits and hospitalizations.

Follow-up and Key Proposals

Following the meeting, RE-AIM submitted a follow-up letter to the Board Chair outlining three proposed paths forward:

- ✓ Permanent reinstatement of AIM
- ✓ A three-year AIM trial program with Community Advisory Group and Formal Evaluation.
- ✓ Establishment of an Asian Mental Health Centre of Excellence –building on the expertise of AIM, and positioning UHN as a world leader in Cultural Psychiatry.

We look forward to the Board's response and remain committed to constructive dialogue.

Community Updates

On March 5, 2026, the UHN Foundation and Fairchild Radio AM1430 hosted a Radiothon to support the health needs of the Chinese community—the largest ethnic patient group in the GTA and Ontario.

This initiative which was initiated by the Asian Initiative in Mental Health Clinic at Toronto Western Hospital, demonstrates how targeted collaboration can effectively address the unique physical and mental health needs of the community.



Newsletter

March 2026 - From Advocacy to Action

Over the past 15 years, this annual event has raised more than \$2.8 million, largely through small donations from community members. This year alone, over \$210,000 was raised. The Radiothon featured active participation from Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking physicians and community members. A key highlight was the launch of an innovative Seniors Emergency Service Centre at Toronto Western Hospital—the first of its kind in Canada.

The event highlighted the importance of emotional support in recovery, particularly for Chinese seniors, who often experience homesickness during hospital stays. The closing song, *Always on My Mind*, performed with lyrics in both Cantonese and English, further underscored the importance of belonging, cultural connection, and emotional comfort.

Future efforts should continue to address both the physical and mental health needs of Chinese Seniors, ensuring comprehensive care.

Next Steps

RE-AIM remains committed to advancing culturally appropriate mental health care through collaboration and advocacy. Our priorities include:

- ✓ Continuing advocacy with UHN and government partners
- ✓ Strengthening community outreach and communication
- ✓ Providing regular updates to the community

Thank you for staying connected and involved in our shared efforts. Your support helps strengthen this collective work.

RE-AIM Coalition