

# OPIHAN NEWS

Ontario Public Health Association

July/August 2005

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**OPHA/alPHa  
Annual  
Conference**

[www.publichealthaction.ca](http://www.publichealthaction.ca)

# OPHA

Ontario Public Health Association  
l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario  
Established/Établi 1949

Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association is a voluntary, charitable association that provides leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthens the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

*OPHA News* is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA). The newsletter highlights Association news and upcoming events in public and community health in Ontario, and offers thought-provoking articles on public health issues and in-depth reports on Association positions.

**President** - Dr. Garry Aslanyan  
**Interim Executive Director** -  
Connie L. Uetrecht  
**Editor** - Lise Smedmor  
**Production** - Dorothy Birtalan

## Executive Director's Message

### OPHA's Role in the Public Health System in Ontario

Dear Colleagues,

If you have been following the developments in Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention in Ontario, you will recognize that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has been utilizing a systems approach to ensure that all elements necessary for effectively changing the incidence of chronic disease and injury are in place. The systems approach to implementing what is essential at the provincial level for effective public health programming transcends all public health programs; it is hoped that the framework is being used beyond Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. The systems elements are listed in Table 1 on page 10.

In looking at the "system" overall, one is struck by the key role OPHA plays in the public health system. These elements supported and/or delivered by OPHA are also areas which were identified in OPHA's recent Strategic Plan revision. Table 2 on page 11 includes OPHA's strategic planning statements and the matching Provincial Systems element.

It is clear that OPHA already fulfills many roles in the public health system, particularly in the areas of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; it could fulfill many more in the enhanced public health system in the future.



*Connie L. Uetrecht  
Interim Executive Director*

All of us must make our Association strong. While participation in OPHA's projects is growing, our membership is sliding. I invite all of you, who are not already members, to join OPHA and become involved in an OPHA committee, workgroup or network. Support your staff involvement in OPHA networks and workgroups. Make sure your membership is up-to-date and invite a colleague to join. Together we can all contribute to increasing OPHA's central role in a vibrant public health system.

Sincerely,  
Connie L. Uetrecht  
Interim Executive Director

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# Association Updates

## Advocacy Activity

On behalf of the OPHA staff, workgroups, and Constituent Societies we have submitted a response to the development of Public Health Goals for Canada. Check the “latest news” section of our website to view the response.

OPHA gave its support to the appointment of the new Minister of Health Promotion, Jim Watson and to the increased focus on health promotion and disease promotion in the province. The issued press release (June 29) can be viewed at [www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/letters/HP-Minister.pdf](http://www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/letters/HP-Minister.pdf)

To see other advocacy activities check out our website at [www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/index.html](http://www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/index.html).

## For Members

To access the members section of the OPHA website, go to the “Member Login” link in the upper right-hand corner, enter opha (case sensitive) for the user name and 123 for the password.

For the most recent, and many back issues of the OPHA News, visit the members only section of the website.

The June 16–17 Board meeting agenda is now available on the website. For a copy of the full minutes, contact Nolly Baksh-Singh at [nolbaksh@ophya.on.ca](mailto:nolbaksh@ophya.on.ca) or (416) 367-3313/1-800-267-6817 ext. 224.

## Staff Updates

### OPHA

We are pleased to announce that Lise Smedmor, has started as our new Communication and Public Relations Officer. Lise has experience with health, media and nutrition communications in the non-profit sector and as a consultant to corporate, government, and non-profit organizations.

Lise worked at OPHA from 2001 – 2003 as the Coordinator, Provincial Programs with the NRC. She is looking forward to working again in public health and to building OPHA’s public and professional profile through media and communication. She can be contacted at [lsmedmor@ophya.on.ca](mailto:lsmedmor@ophya.on.ca) or 416-367-3313 ext. 237.

## Heart Health Resource Centre (HHRC)

We are pleased to announce that Cindy Russell has accepted the full-time position of Program Coordinator for the **Core Competencies Project**. She has previously worked as a part-time Program Coordinator with the Heart Health Resource Centre.

## Workgroup Updates

### Alcohol Workgroup

In July, the Minister of Finance rejected the privatization of the LCBO. This came as a result of the release of the report entitled, *Strategy for Transforming Ontario’s Beverage Alcohol System*. OPHA’s Alcohol Workgroup issued a press release (July 19) giving support to the decision. It can be found at [www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/letters/BevAlcohol-PressRel-Jul05.pdf](http://www.ophya.on.ca/advocacy/letters/BevAlcohol-PressRel-Jul05.pdf)

For a copy of the report, or the workgroup’s *Twelve Questions and Answers re the effects of broadening the retail alcohol market*, visit the Privatization information pack on the APOLNET website at [www.apolnet.ca/infopacks/controls/PrivatizationHome.html](http://www.apolnet.ca/infopacks/controls/PrivatizationHome.html).

## Project Updates

### Heart Health Resource Centre *The Changing Face of the HHRC Consultation and Coaching Services*

There are a range of services currently available through the Heart Health Resource Centre (HHRC). These include centralized and regional training, communication and linkage services, resource development and dissemination, as well as on-site and off-site consultation and coaching services.

The *Consultation and Coaching Services* are currently undergoing changes to strengthen the supports available to the Heart Health Coordinators and Community Partnerships. While the aim of the Consultation Service is to support a group of individuals within communities, the Coaching Service is designed specifically to increase the skills and abilities of the Heart Health Coordinator.

Changes in Ministry expectations, Heart Health Coordinators, and Community Partners have required both these Services to remain flexible and adaptive to the complex needs identified at the community level. We are reviewing the program and revitalizing the services to meet these needs.

During this exploratory stage the Consultation Services are being offered on an **as-needed basis** through three highly skilled and knowledgeable HHRC Core Consultants; Nancy Dubois, Karen Bays, and Tricia Wilkerson.

There are currently 22 on-site consultation days scheduled between April and November 2005 supporting 19 Community Partnership projects. Consultants have been busy providing services to:

- Plan the strategic delivery of programs;
- Develop and implement workplace wellness programs, healthy weight strategies, and active living strategies;
- Facilitate sessions on how to evaluate heart health programs; and
- Facilitate sessions on sustaining Heart Health coalitions and partnerships.

These Consultants also offer one-to-one support to the HH Coordinators through the Coaching Services on any requested topic. Our Coaching Services have helped Coordinators through a variety of process issues such as:

- Revising logic models;
- Developing governance models;
- Guiding a coalition;
- Communicating with/between coalition partners;
- Answering to “multiple people” in the role of HH Coordinator;
- Planning;
- Facilitating large group processes; and
- Getting groups to consensus.

The services offered in the past have been well recognized and appreciated by the Ontario Heart Health Program (OHHP) Community Partnerships. The active involvement of the Consultants, HH Coordinators, and the Ontario Heart Health Network (OHHN) is essential to the changing patterns of the HHRC Consultation and Coaching Services.

We hope you will keep a close eye on the emerging trends and excitement!

### Best Practices

#### *The Dissemination of Best and Promising Practices in Chronic Disease Prevention Project*

Guided by an Advisory Committee, the HHRC's Dissemination of Best and Promising Practices (BP/PP) in Chronic Disease Prevention Project aims to maximize the uptake and implementation of identified BP/PP in stroke prevention. Using a comprehensive and intensive dissemination strategy, five pilot communities were chosen to participate: the Grey Bruce Community Wellness Project; Healthy Living Niagara; Healthy Living Perth and the Huron-Perth District Stroke Centre; the Whole Hearted Living, Oxford's Heart Health Network; and the Sarnia District Stroke Centre Wellness Project.

## Provincial Update

### **OPHA Executive Committee Meets with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sheela Basrur**

In early August, an OPHA contingent met with Dr. Sheela Basrur and several Ministry staff, to discuss some of the key priority areas for OPHA.

OPHA expressed its satisfaction with the public health capacity review process to date. The creation of the new Ministry of Health Promotion is viewed positively but there is also concern about any further fragmentation of public health. It was emphasized that the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines need to be revised. There is still discussion within the government regarding which programs will be housed at which Ministry. There are many programs that are in a “grey” area, that is, could fit in many places.

The reorganization of the Public Health Division has been approved internally. It will be made public likely in September. It was acknowledged that further revisions to this “plan” may occur as specifics for Ontario’s Health Protection and Promotion Agency and the Ministry of Health Promotion unfold. Dr. Basrur stated that for components of mandatory programs that fall under the new Ministry, they would likely take on the review of the standards.

OPHA was involved in the development of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) report on a balanced scorecard for public health. We are committed to measurement of effectiveness and efficiency and would be viewed as an unbiased third party in undertaking this measurement of health unit performance. The Ministry is looking for indicators where information exists. They are trying to accomplish the objective of measuring accountability as well as reporting progress to the general public. It is expected that it will be eight months to a year before a first draft of the indicators is created. In the meantime, the Ministry will use a variation of the MPIQ indicators to track program implementation (recognizing the limitations of this tool).

To maximize the impact of the project across the province, the learnings from the five pilot communities will be shared with the community partnerships of the Ontario Heart Health Program (OHHP) and the Ontario Stroke Centres (Regional and District). A dissemination framework developed by Nancy Dubois and Associates, based on work done by researchers at the University of Waterloo, will be used. Some activities for dissemination include: newsletters, emails, website, and presentations. Another important purpose of the project is to share the successes and the challenges from the HHRC’s dissemination experience with other resource centres in the province’s Ontario Health Promotion Resource System (OHPRS).

The initial step for the five pilot communities is to review selected local programs. A workshop, organized by the HHRC and hosted by the Perth District Health Unit, was held in Stratford on May 31, 2005 to train OHHP Coordinators and Stroke Centre representatives from the five pilot communities to use the HHRC Program Assessment tools, including a survey and an assessment guide. The assessment criteria for the guide, adapted from the University of Waterloo, were expanded and updated by the HHRC and experts in program evaluation. With support from the HHRC and research from the BP/PP compendium, each community considered suggestions on how to enhance their individual programs. In total, 23 local programs will have been assessed by mid-September.

The second phase of the project is scheduled to take place from mid-September 2005 to March 2006. Details have yet to be finalized – so stay tuned! A BP/PP Compendium has been developed and will be disseminated throughout Phase II. The compendium contains over 80 BP/PP in chronic disease prevention identified by a systematic literature and environmental scan conducted by the University of Waterloo. To access the BP/PP Compendium Toolkit visit the HHRC website: [www.hhrc.net/bpt/index.cfm](http://www.hhrc.net/bpt/index.cfm)

## Early Notice

### Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance Chronic Disease Prevention Strategic Planning Day

OCDPA is hosting an all day planning session on Monday November 21, 2005, one day prior to, and in the same location as the alPHa/OPHA conference.

If you would like to provide input on the OCDPA Chronic Disease Prevention Strategy, plan to attend this facilitated session.

For more information or to register, send an email to [thowson@opha.on.ca](mailto:thowson@opha.on.ca). Please include your name, email, affiliation or organization, mailing address and phone number. There will be a fee to cover lunch. Space is limited.

Building on the strength of the OPHA Board of Directors and the recently modified and updated strategic directions, the association is well-positioned to play a key role in the future of public health; however, a financial commitment from the Ministry needs to be ensured. Dr. Basrur indicated that she understood the need for reasonable and consistent funding for OPHA. This will be a transition year for the Ministry and future funding will need to be re-visited.

OPHA's president, Dr. Garry Aslanyan, re-emphasized OPHA's willingness to support and participate in the public health system development. We look forward to this type of meeting on a regular basis.



## OPHA/alPHa Annual Conference

**November 22-23, 2005**  
**Westin Harbour Castle Hotel,**  
**Toronto**

**[www.publichealthaction.ca](http://www.publichealthaction.ca)**

This year, the two associations have come together to offer an exciting and dynamic conference program that will appeal to a broad range of professionals working in the field of public health in Ontario and Canada. Our goal is to provide a forum for high quality learning and networking opportunities for public health policy makers, practitioners, researchers, students and others interested in the public health disciplines.

### Keynote Speakers include:

Dr. David Butler-Jones  
Dr. John Frank  
Dr. David Gordon  
Paula Todd

In addition to the OPHA Life Membership, OPHA Honorary Membership, and Dr. Louis Grant Award, this year we will be presenting a new award at the conference.

### alPHa/ OPHA Smoke Free Award

alPHa and OPHA are combining their efforts to award the achievements of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2005. Deadline for nominations is **October 15, 2005**. Nomination forms can be downloaded at [www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib\\_007455113.pdf](http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_007455113.pdf)

# External Announcements

## New Resources

**Action Plan on Urban Use Pesticides from the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada** – A kit of information can be requested from [www.pmra-arla.gc.ca](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca). For more information, call 1-800-267-6315.

**Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion** - a draft version of the Charter was released on July 29 and can be viewed at [www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/6gchp/hpr\\_050802\\_bangkok\\_charter\\_hp.pdf](http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/6gchp/hpr_050802_bangkok_charter_hp.pdf)

**A Domestic Violence Action Plan for Ontario** (August 24) - a new report has been released by the McGuinty government. The action plan represents a new approach to reducing domestic violence that invites everyone's participation from government, corporations, and professionals to neighbours, friends and families. The document can be downloaded at [www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/dvap.pdf](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/owd/english/preventing/dvap.pdf)

**The Family Guide** - from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, comes a series of articles on emerging trends in substance abuse. The family guide website [www.family.samhsa.gov/set/emergingtrends.aspx](http://www.family.samhsa.gov/set/emergingtrends.aspx) focuses on new substances that have potential for abuse, dependence, and subsequent health problems among young people. Among these are methamphetamine use, marijuana-flavored candy, and flavored cigarettes.

**HEAL database** - the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre (AHPRC) has recently updated their Healthy Living and Active Living (HEAL) database of programs and policies across Canada. The inventory can be accessed at the AHPRC website [www.ahprc.dal.ca/heal/index.cfm](http://www.ahprc.dal.ca/heal/index.cfm)

**Methods in Community-Based Participatory Research for Health** – a book written by experts in the field, this book shows how researchers, practitioners, and community partners can work together to establish and maintain equitable partnerships using a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach to increase knowledge and improve health and well-being of the communities

involved. The book can be viewed at [www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787975621.htm](http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787975621.htm)

**Moving Together**- alPHA has completed a position paper which assembles and synthesizes its member's views on the five topic areas under assessment by the province's Local Capacity Review (August 19). It can be downloaded at [www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib\\_007464856.pdf](http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_007464856.pdf)

**YouthNet Briefs** is offering a series of two-page summaries highlighting YouthNet's global impact by focusing on research results, country projects, and technical leadership. The briefs can be viewed at [www.fhi.org/en/Youth/Youthnet/Publications/YNbriefs.htm](http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/Youthnet/Publications/YNbriefs.htm)

## New Websites

**Canadian Breast Cancer Network website** - offers links to resources on more than 60 subjects of relevance to people living with breast cancer. Whether you're looking for a support group, an event to attend, want to read about the latest breast cancer news or find resources to help inform you of your options, the CBCN website strives to give this all to you. Visit at [www.cbcn.ca](http://www.cbcn.ca)

**Health Canada** launches **MedEffect** (press release, August 9) - website that provides centralized access to relevant and reliable health product safety information in an easy-to-find location. The new website will also make it simpler for consumers and health professionals to complete and file reports of adverse reactions to drugs and other products. Visit at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hp-mps/medeff/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hp-mps/medeff/index_e.html)

**Health Canada** launched a new, integrated website - the site has been re-organized and re-designed to make information easier to find and provide greater access for all Canadians. Visit at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_e.html) (English) or [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index\\_f.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_f.html) (French)

**Women's Health Matters** website gets a facelift - the look and feel of the site has been enhanced to make it easier and more intuitive to navigate through all of the features. Visit at [www.womenshealthmatters.ca](http://www.womenshealthmatters.ca)

## Notices

**\$402 Million for Affordable Housing Allocated to Communities in Ontario** (press release, August 31): The Governments of Canada and Ontario have allocated \$402 million to municipalities as a first wave of funding under the new \$602 million Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. This allocation will produce 5,320 new units of affordable housing, and provide rent subsidies for up to 5,000 lower-income households. [www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts\\_1\\_24965\\_1.html](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_24965_1.html)

**Health Canada commits over \$71 million to address substance abuse** (press release, August 30): Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh today announced the contribution of more than \$71 million over the next three years for national, regional and community initiatives aimed at addressing substance abuse in Canada. The funding includes \$29 million under the Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund and \$42 million through the Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program. [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005\\_93\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_93_e.html)

**Government Takes Action to Protect the Health of Ontarians** (press release, August 29): First air standards update in 25 years will reduce pollution limits and improve air quality. [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/news/2005/082901.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/news/2005/082901.htm)

**New Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion:** Marg Rappolt will assume this role effective August 29. To view her bio visit [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/ministry/bios/rappolt.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/ministry/bios/rappolt.html)

**McGuinty Government Continues to Deliver in Its Fight Against Domestic Violence** (press release, August 25): A \$2.5 million investment will place new emphasis on preventing abuse before it happens and supporting victims when it does happen, enhancing counseling and housing supports for victims and improving training for front-line workers. [www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/August2005/25/c3042.html](http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/August2005/25/c3042.html)

**Ontario Supports Agri-Food Research and Development** (press release, August 25): The Ontario government is building prosperity in the agri-food sector by helping the Agricultural Research Institute of

Ontario to attract new sources of investment. [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2005/082505.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2005/082505.html)

**Researchers doing their homework on childhood obesity** (press release, August 24): Minister Dosanjh announces over \$2.8 million for health research projects. [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28857.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28857.html)

**Canada/US Link Critical Disease Surveillance Systems** (press release, August 13): Health Minister Dosanjh and United States Ambassador David Wilkins signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enable simultaneous exchange and comparison of information between national laboratories to speed up response times and capacities when managing infectious disease outbreaks. [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2005/2005\\_30\\_e.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/media/nr-rp/2005/2005_30_e.html)

**Smoking rates in Canada at lowest ever** (press release, August 11): The Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) reveals that slightly more than five million Canadians, representing 20 per cent of the population age 15 and over, are current smokers. The annual rate for 2003 was 21 per cent. [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005\\_89\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_89_e.html)

**Government of Canada increases maximum penalties for Methamphetamine offences** (press release, August 11): Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh, Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada Irwin Cotler, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Anne McLellan, announced that the Government of Canada has increased the maximum penalties for possession, trafficking, importation, exportation and production of methamphetamine, also known as crystal meth. [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005\\_88\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_88_e.html)

**McGuinty Government Expands Best Start Plan for Children** (press release, July 28): Children and Youth Services Minister, Mary Anne Chambers announces that the province will create approximately 25,000 new child care spaces easing the financial burden on municipalities. [www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/05728.htm](http://www.children.gov.on.ca/CS/en/newsRoom/newsReleases/05728.htm)

**Ontario Government will not sell the LCBO** (press release, July 18): Finance Minister Greg Sorbara today confirmed the government's commitment not to sell the LCBO, after receiving the Beverage Alcohol System Review panel report. The government will review other suggestions to improve beverage alcohol system. [www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/media/2005/nr07-basr.html](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/media/2005/nr07-basr.html)

**Revised guideline for trichloroethylene (TCE) in drinking water** (press release, July 12): Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh today announced that Health Canada and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water have agreed to a more stringent guideline for the amount of trichloroethylene (TCE) in drinking water. The new guideline is 10 per cent of the previous limit, lowered from 0.05 mg/L to 0.005 mg/L. [www.hc.sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005\\_76\\_e.html](http://www.hc.sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_76_e.html)

**Government of Canada reaffirms its commitment to combat Canada's rising obesity levels** (press release, July 6): In response to Statistics Canada's release of the latest number of overweight and obese Canadians, Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh and Minister of State (Public Health) Dr. Carolyn Bennett recognized the need to take action to address the significant public health threat caused by obesity in Canada. [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/74\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/74_e.html)

**Minister Dosanjh releases two new reports on the Primary Health Care Transition Fund** (press release, July 4): Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh today released two new reports on Health Canada's Primary Health Care Transition Fund (PHCTF): the Interim Report and the Summary of Initiatives. The Primary Health Care Transition Fund has been assisting provinces and territories, and many primary health stakeholders with the resources needed to introduce long-term improvements to primary health care. [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005\\_72\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2005/2005_72_e.html)

**Premier Makes Agriculture a Lead Ministry** (press release, June 30): New Minister Leona Dombrowsky Joins "Inner Cabinet". [www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2005/063005.html](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/infores/releases/2005/063005.html)

## Call for Abstracts/Papers

**17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm** - Abstracts relevant to reducing the health, social and economic harms associated with all drugs – including alcohol and tobacco - are invited. The deadline for submission is **Monday, October 3, 2005**, 5:00 pm PST. [www.harmreduction2006.ca/abstract/C3\\_abstract.htm](http://www.harmreduction2006.ca/abstract/C3_abstract.htm)

## Funding Opportunities

The following list was announced by CIHR and its partners during **July 1-15, 2005**. Visit [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28669.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28669.html) for full details.

- Doctoral Research Awards - Continuing Health Education
- Influenza Immunization Program Evaluation Study Grant
- Randomized Controlled Trials Mentoring Program

The following list was announced by CIHR and its partners during **July 16-29, 2005**. Deadlines vary. Visit [www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28761.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/28761.html) for full details.

- Clinical Research Networks: Priority Announcement - CIHR Team Grant (2005-2006)
- Fellowship Awards - Priority Announcement: Personnel Awards in Transfusion Science
- International Opportunities Program - Collaborative Research Project Grants
- Population and Public Health Research Development and Knowledge Exchange Initiative
- Workshop Support - Research Development and Knowledge Exchange

Please direct general inquiries to [info@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:info@cihr-irsc.gc.ca), and specific inquiries on the funding opportunity to the contact personnel listed at the bottom of each funding opportunity.

## Health Units on the Move

**Durham Region Health Department** has moved to the new Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters at 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby. [www.region.durham.on.ca/health.asp?nr=departments/health/healthinside.htm](http://www.region.durham.on.ca/health.asp?nr=departments/health/healthinside.htm)

**Niagara Region Public Health Department** has moved from 573 Glenridge Avenue to 30 Hanover Drive in St.Catharines. Phone and fax numbers will stay the same. [www.regional.niagara.on.ca/living/health\\_wellness/contact\\_us/office\\_locations.aspx](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/living/health_wellness/contact_us/office_locations.aspx)

## Newsletters

The latest issue of the **Operation Health Protection** newsletter is available online. It contains an update on the activities of the **Local Capacity Review Committee**, information about the new Ministry of Health Promotion, details on the Health Protection and Promotion Agency Implementation Task Force, the laboratories review, and plans for the Regional Infection Control Networks. View the PDF at [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/ohp/nl/ohpu\\_nl\\_0805.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/project/ohp/nl/ohpu_nl_0805.pdf)

The Summer edition of The **Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force Newsletter** is now available on the Canadian Harm Reduction Network website. View the PDF at [www.canadianharmreduction.com/readmore/thrtfsum05newsl.pdf](http://www.canadianharmreduction.com/readmore/thrtfsum05newsl.pdf)

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## National Collaborating Centres: Public Health Agency of Canada Roundtable

In May 2004, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett (Minister of State, Public Health) announced the creation of six National Collaborating Centres (NCC) for Public Health, along with the creation of the Public Health Agency of Canada. The NCCs form a key part of the Government of Canada's commitment to renew and strengthen public health in Canada.

The function of the NCCs will be to connect, co-operate, collaborate and communicate with all stakeholders in the public health community, including

## Request for Input

**Proposal to adopt a Canada-wide Standard for Mercury Emissions from Coal-fired Electric Power Generation Plants** (August 22) - The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's draft Canada Wide Standard for mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants calls for mercury emissions from Ontario's coal plants to be reduced to zero by Jan. 1, 2010. If you support the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's proposal, please send your comments to Shelly Bonte-Gelok, [sdb-ebr@ene.gov.on.ca](mailto:sdb-ebr@ene.gov.on.ca), at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment by **October 6, 2005**. For more information on the proposed standard, please visit: [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/025680ep.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/025680ep.htm)

**Health Canada has updated the It's Your Health article on formaldehyde and indoor air** (August 9) - The article, available at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/formaldehyde\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/environ/formaldehyde_e.html), now includes reference to the proposed new guideline for acceptable levels of short- and long-term exposure to formaldehyde. The guideline is intended to assist in the work of public health inspectors. It was developed by Health Canada scientists, with input by other federal, provincial and international experts. Canadians are welcome to comment on the proposed guideline before it is finalized. To read and/or provide comments on the new guideline for formaldehyde in indoor air, see the notice in the Canada Gazette, Part I, by visiting: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/2005/20050820/html/notice-e.html#i3>

the provinces and territories, international experts, academia, non-governmental organizations, the research community and health practitioners. Each NCC will work cooperatively with a wide variety of stakeholders in the health community within its area of expertise, to strengthen existing relationships and create important new linkages. The Centres are part of the Government's pan-Canadian public health strategy and have both a national agenda as well as key focal areas.

Continued on page 12

Table 1. **System Approach to Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention in Ontario\***

<b>Provincial System</b>	<b>Specific Elements Supported or Delivered by OPHA</b>
Planning	Planning structure <i>Nature of stakeholder engagement</i> Statements of purpose Organizational planning documents/frameworks
Policy Development	Government structure and process <i>Advocacy groups</i> Industry roles
Communication	Social marketing/advertisements <i>Media advocacy/earned media</i> Internal communications among stakeholders/levels Crisis communications/issues management/risk communication
Enabling	<i>Best practices synthesis</i> <i>Information dissemination</i> <i>Training</i> <i>Technical assistance</i> <i>Learning network (peer-to-peer)</i>
Research and Development	Knowledge development <i>Intervention development</i> <i>Linkages subsystem</i>
Human Resources Development	Health Professional development <i>In-service/continuing professional education</i> Re-training programs
Dissemination/Deployment	Product line development Production, warehousing, whole and retail distribution Investment funding (transfer payments to organizations to deliver)
Monitoring and Surveillance	MIS for resource inputs, throughputs, outputs Surveillance of impacts and outcomes, risks and disease Continuous quality improvement
Provincial Indicators	Direct Indirect

\* OPHA-supported topic areas are shown in *italics*.

Excerpted from: Informing Directions for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Ontario, Summary of Potential Applications to the Forthcoming Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Framework and Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance Collaboration Efforts, Final Draft Document, July 8, 2005, Christine Lyons and Ann-Marie Kungl, Prevention Unit, Cancer Care Ontario.

Table 2 – OPHA’s Role in Public Health

OPHA’s Strategic Plan Statement	Required Public Health Systems Elements	OPHA Examples
<b>1.0 Expand OPHA’s advocacy role</b>		
1.1 Increase the association’s capacity for policy and advocacy on public health issues	Policy Development <i>-Advocacy Groups</i>	OPHA position papers and resolutions  Advocacy letters and press releases
1.2 Strengthen public health practice towards further integration of broad determinants of health	Policy Development <i>-Advocacy Groups</i>	OPHA position papers and resolutions  OPHA conference plan  Making Connections partnership  Campaign 2000
1.3 Enhance OPHA’s response to anticipated changes and emerging issues in public health	Communication <i>-Media advocacy/earned media</i>	Emerging role through PR and Advocacy Committee and Communication Officer
<b>2.0 Increase OPHA’s role in enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of public health programs in Ontario</b>		
2.1 Provide mechanisms for collaborative initiatives with a provincial focus	Dissemination/deployment <i>-Product line development</i>  Enabling <i>-Learning network (peer-to-peer)</i>  Planning <i>-Nature of stakeholder engagement</i>	OPHA workgroups  OPHA supported networks  OHPRS networks through OPHA  OPHA projects
2.2 Initiate and support the development of networks and coalitions	Enabling <i>-Learning network (peer-to-peer)</i>	OPHA workgroups and networks
2.3 Foster the implementation of evidence-based best practices	Enabling <i>-Best Practice synthesis</i> <i>-Information dissemination</i> <i>-Technical assistance</i> <i>-Training</i>  Research and Development <i>-Intervention development</i> <i>-Linkages subsystem</i>	OPHA projects  OPHA conference
2.4 Continue to support the development of professional competencies	Enabling <i>-Learning network (peer-to-peer)</i> <i>-Technical support</i> <i>-Training</i>  Human Resources Development <i>-Health Professional development</i>	OPHA projects

The six centres are:

- The NCC for Determinants of Health in Atlantic Canada
- The NCC for Public Policy and Risk Assessment in Quebec
- The NCC for Public Health Methodologies and Tools Development in Ontario
- The NCC for Infectious Diseases in Manitoba.
- The NCC for Environmental Health in BC
- The NCC for Aboriginal Health in BC.

In July, Cindy Scythes, Vice-President and Connie Uetrecht, Interim Executive Director, OPHA, participated in the Expert Roundtable: Public Health Methodologies and Tools. This roundtable is part of Minister Bennett's consultation to develop public health goals for Canada for presentation to the First Ministers. The July discussions were to provide input to the Minister on what tools, methods and approaches are needed for the Ontario NCC.

Currently housed at the MOHLTC, and within Dr. Sheela Basrur's mandate, the Ontario NCC will focus its work on knowledge synthesis and the translation of concepts, information, systems, and tools that will facilitate better use and access to information. This knowledge synthesis will improve the decision making capacity of professionals in the public health system for both policies and programs. The roundtable provided an opportunity for an update on the stages of development of the NCC in the context of the current Action Plan for Ontario - Operation Health Protection.

The vision of the Ontario NCC is to be, "an organized functional bridge between emergent research and knowledge development, the public health practitioner and the policy maker through the generation and dissemination of evidence-based tools and methodologies". Currently the NCC infrastructure is being developed.

The roundtable discussions will appear on the Public Health Agency website at [www.healthycanadians.ca](http://www.healthycanadians.ca).

## Rubrique de la directrice générale

### Rôle de l'ASPO dans le système de santé publique de l'Ontario

Si vous suivez ce qui se passe dans le domaine de la Prévention des maladies chroniques et des blessures en Ontario, vous savez que le ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée a recours à une approche systémique pour s'assurer que tous les éléments nécessaires pour changer effectivement l'incidence des maladies chroniques et des blessures sont en place. L'approche systémique concernant la mise en œuvre de ce qui est essentiel à la programmation efficace de la santé publique au niveau provincial transcende tous les programmes de santé publique; on espère que le cadre sera utilisé au-delà de la Prévention des maladies chroniques et des blessures. Les éléments du système sont énumérés au tableau 1.

En examinant le "système" dans son ensemble, on est frappé par le rôle clé que joue l'ASPO dans le système de santé publique. Ces éléments appuyés ou réalisés par l'ASPO sont également des domaines qui ont été identifiés dans la révision récente du Plan stratégique de l'ASPO. Le tableau 2 comprend les énoncés de planification stratégique de l'ASPO et les éléments correspondants du système provincial.

Il est clair que l'ASPO joue déjà de nombreux rôles dans le système de santé publique, en particulier dans les domaines de la Prévention des maladies chroniques et des blessures, mais elle pourrait à l'avenir remplir beaucoup d'autres rôles dans un système de santé publique amélioré.

Nous devons tous travailler à renforcer notre Association. Alors que la participation aux projets de l'ASPO s'accroît, nos effectifs diminuent. J'invite tous ceux et toutes celles d'entre vous, qui ne sont pas encore membres, à adhérer à l'ASPO et à participer aux comités, groupes de travail ou au réseau de l'ASPO. Encouragez votre personnel à participer aux réseaux et groupes de travail de l'ASPO. Assurez-vous que votre adhésion est à jour et invitez un collègue à adhérer à notre Association. Ensemble, nous pouvons tous aider à renforcer le rôle essentiel que joue l'ASPO dans un système de santé publique dynamique.

Sincères salutations,

Connie L. Uetrecht  
directrice générale intérimaire

Tableau 1. **Approche systémique en matière de Prévention des maladies chroniques et des blessures en Ontario\***

<b>Système provincial</b>	<b>Éléments particuliers t l'ASPO s'engage de soutenir ou mise à l'exécution</b>
Planification	Structure de planification <i>Nature de l'engagement des parties intéressées</i> Énoncés d'objet Documents/cadres de planification organisationnelle
Élaboration de politiques	Structure et processus gouvernementaux <i>Groupes d'intervention</i> Rôles de l'industrie
Communication	Marketing social/publicité <i>Pression par l'entremise des médias / couverture médiatique gratuite</i> Communications internes parmi les parties intéressées/niveaux Communications en temps de crise /Gestion des questions d'intérêt / divulgation des risques
Habilitation	<i>Synthèses de pratiques exemplaires</i> <i>Diffusion de renseignements</i> <i>Formation</i> <i>Assistance technique</i> <i>Réseau d'apprentissage (entre pairs)</i>
Recherche et développement	Développement des connaissances <i>Développement de l'intervention</i> <i>Sous-système de connexion</i>
Développement des ressources humaines	Perfectionnement des professionnels de la santé <i>Formation professionnelle en cours d'emploi/continue</i> Programmes de recyclage
Diffusion /Déploiement	Mise au point de gammes de produits Production, entreposage, distribution en gros et au détail Financement des investissements (transfert de paiements à des organismes d'exécution)
Observation et surveillance	SIG pour entrants, flux, extrants de ressources Surveillance des impacts et résultats, risques et maladies Amélioration continue de la qualité
Indicateurs provinciaux	Directs Indirects

\* Le texte en italiques indique les activités dont l'ASPO s'engage de soutenir pour chacun des fonctions

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Tableau 2 – Rôle de l'ASPO dans la santé publique

Énoncé du plan stratégique de l'ASPO	Éléments du système de santé publique requis	Exemples
<b>1.0 Accroître le rôle de défense des intérêts de l'ASPO</b>		
1.1 Accroître la capacité de l'association concernant les politiques et la défense des questions de santé publique	Élaboration de politiques <i>Groupes d'intervention</i>	Exposés de principe et résolutions de l'ASPO  Lettres et communiqués de presse de défense d'intérêts
1.2 Renforcer la pratique de la santé publique pour mieux intégrer les vastes déterminants de la santé	Élaboration de politiques <i>Groupes d'intervention</i>	Documents et résolutions de l'ASPO  Plan du congrès de l'ASPO  Partenariats pour établir des connexions  Campagne 2000
1.3 Améliorer la manière dont l'ASPO réagit aux changements prévus et nouvelles questions de santé publique	Communications <i>Pression par l'entremise des médias / couverture médiatique gratuite</i>	Nouveau rôle grâce au comité des RP et de défense des intérêts et au responsable des communications
<b>2.0 Renforcer le rôle de l'ASPO en améliorant l'efficacité, l'efficience et la viabilité des programmes de santé publique en Ontario</b>		
2.1 Fournir des mécanismes pour entreprendre des initiatives de collaboration axées sur la province	Diffusion/déploiement <i>Mise au point d'une gamme de produits</i>  Habilitation <i>Réseau d'apprentissage (entre pairs)</i>  Planification <i>Nature de l'engagement des parties intéressées</i>	Groupes de travail de l'ASPO  Réseaux appuyés par l'ASPO  Réseaux CORPS par l'intermédiaire de l'ASPO  Projets de l'ASPO
2.2 Lancer et soutenir la mise en place de réseaux et de coalitions	Habilitation <i>Réseau d'apprentissage (entre pairs)</i>	Groupes de travail et réseaux de l'ASPO

\* Le texte en italiques indique les activités dont l'ASPO s'engage de soutenir pour chacun des fonctions

Tableau 2 – Rôle de l'ASPO dans la santé publique (suite)

Enoncé du plan stratégique de l'ASPO	Éléments du système de santé publique requis	Exemples
2.3 Encourager la mise en œuvre de pratiques exemplaires fondées sur les résultats	Habilitation <i>Synthèses de pratiques exemplaires</i> <i>Diffusion de renseignements</i> <i>Assistance technique</i> <i>Formation</i>  Recherche et développement <i>Développement de l'intervention</i> <i>Sous-système de connexion</i>	Projets de l'ASPO  Congrès de l'ASPO
2.4 Continuer à soutenir le perfectionnement des compétences professionnelles	Habilitation <i>Reseau d'apprentissage (entre pairs)</i> <i>Assistance technique</i> <i>Formation</i>  Développement des ressources humaines <i>Perfectionnement des professionnels de la santé</i> <i>Perfectionnement professionnel en cours d'emploi/ continu</i>	Projets de l'ASPO

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The following list of events are presented as a service to our members. OPHA does not endorse or make any claim as to the quality, funding source, or benefit of these events. If you have any concerns about the event, please check with the contact person indicated.

### Membership in the OPHA

Membership runs for a period of one year from the date of joining, and fees are tax deductible. Corporate memberships are not available.

Regular OPHA Membership, \$85; Members of OPHA Constituent Societies, \$80; Student / Retired / Unemployed, \$50; (Effective January 1, 2005) For application forms, call Nolly Baksh-Singh at the OPHA office at (416) 367-3313 or toll-free 1-800-267-6817 (Ontario only) ext. 224; email [nolbaksh@opha.on.ca](mailto:nolbaksh@opha.on.ca); write to 700 Lawrence Ave West, Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario, M6A 3B4; fax (416) 367-2844. You can also download an application form from our website at [www.opha.on.ca/membership](http://www.opha.on.ca/membership).

Conjoint membership with the Canadian Public Health Association is available by contacting CPHA directly at 1565 Carling Ave., Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 8N8. Tel: (613) 725-3769. Fax: (613) 725-9826

### Advertising in OPHA News

OPHA accepts inserts and advertisements that would be of interest to its membership.

#### Cost:

- \$200 for one 1/4 page ad
- \$300 for one 1/2 page ad
- \$350 for one full page ad or insert (1,000 copies required).

Reduced fees for multiple mailings are available. Additional charges for postage costs may be applied. Advance approval of copy is required.

For submissions or inquiries regarding this publication, contact the Editor at [editor@opha.on.ca](mailto:editor@opha.on.ca).

### Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse Annual Conference

September 21, 2005 :: J.P. Morgan Chase Conference Center, New York  
[www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org)

### Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)

September 25-27, 2005 :: Cornwall, Ontario  
[www.apheo.ca/events/05/Conference2005/SITE/cover\\_page.html](http://www.apheo.ca/events/05/Conference2005/SITE/cover_page.html)

### Best Practices in Seniors Mental Health Conference

September 26-27, 2005 :: BMO Institute for Learning, Ottawa  
[www.ccsmh.ca/en/conference2005.cfm](http://www.ccsmh.ca/en/conference2005.cfm)

### Health Promotion Ontario (HPO) Annual Conference

September 30, 2005 :: North York Civic Centre, Toronto  
[www.hpoph.org/conf/index.html](http://www.hpoph.org/conf/index.html)

### Human Milk Banking Association of North America

October 17-18, 2005 :: Hilton, Alexander Mark Centre, Alexandria, VA  
[www.hmbana.org/conference-info.html](http://www.hmbana.org/conference-info.html)

### 4th International Conference on Urban Health

October 26-28, 2005 :: Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto  
[www.crich.ca/isuhconference2005/](http://www.crich.ca/isuhconference2005/)

### 2005 International Drug Policy Reform Conference

November 10-12, 2005 :: Westin Hotel, Long Beach, CA  
[www.drugpolicy.org/events/dpa2005](http://www.drugpolicy.org/events/dpa2005)

### Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse National Conference

November 13-16, 2005 :: Hilton Suites Conference Centre, Markham  
[www.issuesofsubstance.ca](http://www.issuesofsubstance.ca)

### OPHA/alpha Annual Conference

November 22-23, 2005 :: Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto  
[www.publichealthaction.ca](http://www.publichealthaction.ca)

### Provincial Conference on Domestic Violence

November 28-30, 2005 :: Toronto Marriott Downtown, Toronto  
[www.findingcommonground.ca](http://www.findingcommonground.ca)

### 17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm

April 30 - May 4, 2006 :: Fairmount Hotel, Vancouver  
[www.harmreduction2006.ca/](http://www.harmreduction2006.ca/)

### International Harm Reduction Conference

October 22-25, 2006 :: Cape Town, South Africa  
[www.alcoholconference.org](http://www.alcoholconference.org)