

## Open Letter to Public Health Colleagues

Re: Dr. Ronald Sax Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dear Public Health colleagues:

Some of you may have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Dr. Ronald Sax while he was the Medical Officer of Health for both Waterloo Region and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph. Dr. Ronald Sax succumbed to cancer in 2001 after a brief illness. Ron is certainly missed by the colleagues and friends he collaborated with over the years. He left a mark wherever he worked, being a passionate advocate for social justice.

A scholarship fund has been established in memory of Dr. Sax through the Family and Children's Services Foundation of Waterloo Region. With this scholarship, local public health staff who worked with Ron hope to inspire and assist young people who have experienced difficult life circumstances to continue their education, while honouring the memory of Dr. Ronald Sax who believed strongly in providing opportunities for people to achieve full potential, thereby breaking the cycle of abuse and poverty. The seed money for the scholarship came from the proceeds of hosting the Ontario Public Health Association conference in Waterloo a few years ago.

In June, the inaugural Dr. Ronald Sax Memorial Scholarship was awarded to a young woman in Waterloo Region who will now be pursuing post secondary education this fall which she would otherwise not have been able to pursue. Janice Husted, Ron's wife and John their son, were both present for the special event. It was a fitting tribute for Ron, and one we are enthusiastic and hopeful to see continue.

We would like to provide colleagues the opportunity, both those who knew Dr. Sax and those who did not, to donate in order to allow the fund to grow and continue in Dr. Sax's name. Public health staff have a long history of giving back to their communities both in time and resources.

Contributions can be made directly to the foundation at Family and Children's Services Foundation, 200 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, ON N2C 2L9.

You can download a promotional pamphlet providing the details of the scholarship, for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Liana Nolan  
Medical Officer of Health  
Region of Waterloo Public Health

Dr. Nicola Mercer  
Medical Officer of Health  
Wellington-Dufferin Public Health