

**CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE SANTE PUBLIQUE**

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On Monday September 19, 2005, at the 96th Annual Conference of the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), over 70 professionals endorsed efforts by the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and CPHA to initiate a national strategy on violence prevention. Following the World Health Organization's call for public health to take a lead role in violence prevention, CPHA and OPHA gathered together public health, justice, research and other interested organizations to form a multi-sectoral steering group to spearhead efforts to develop and implement a national violence prevention action plan.

Encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Minister of State for Public Health, the Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, more than 10 organizations and individuals, including the Public Health Agency of Canada and Statistics Canada, pledged to join a national steering committee. Participants discussed the need to identify stakeholders, inventory effective preventive measures, set goals and objectives, and seek out resources to support the action plan.

"There are so many excellent violence prevention initiatives underway across Canada. The time is ripe for a multi-sectoral effort to bring together the expertise and energy needed to create a dynamic national strategy for violence prevention in Canada," said Lori Snyder-McGregor, co-chair of the OPHA Violence Prevention Work Group.

"The public health community is well placed to address the social determinants of health that strengthen violence prevention efforts," said Dr. Elinor Wilson, CEO of the Canadian Public Health Association.

Over the coming months, the steering committee will be seeking partnerships to continue the momentum. To get more information and/or volunteer to help, contact the CPHA at ceo@cpha.ca or the OPHA at info@opha.on.ca.