

NEWS RELEASE

June 13, 2006

For Immediate Release

Smoke Free Champions to Receive Awards

TORONTO – Twenty-two people will be honoured for their outstanding contribution to creating a smoke-free Ontario and share their stories on Thursday, June 15, 2006, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott Downtown Toronto. The award was created jointly by the two public health associations in Ontario; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

“It is wonderful to be in a position to recognize the leadership of those who have worked to protect all of us from the harmful effects of tobacco and second-hand smoke,” said Garry Aslanyan, OPHA President. The awards are being presented as Ontario enjoys the first few days of breathing easy after a province-wide ban of smoking in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*. The Act came into force on May 31, 2006. “This is a time for everyone who has worked to promote the health of Ontarians to celebrate their success,” said Dr. Liana Nolan, President of alPHa.

Award winners include individuals who have worked in provincial government, advocacy organizations, and public health. They have all contributed to the success of the *Smoke-free Ontario Act* and they include:

Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Michael Perley, Director, Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco

Terry Sullivan, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario

Dr. Richard Schabas, Medical Officer of Health for Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit

Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion, is an award winner and will reflect on this important win for the health of Ontarians.

As the provincial organization representing public health, alPHa provides leadership and expertise on public health management issues. Its members include medical officers of health, board of health members and senior managers in public health disciplines including inspection, epidemiology, nursing, dentistry, nutrition, health promotion and business administration.

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