



**Ontario Public Health Association**  
**l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario**  
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**RESOLUTION #5**  
**OPHA INJURY PREVENTION WORKGROUP**

A Resolution adopted by the  
Ontario Public Health Association  
*Code* 2008-05 (RES) *Status* Active

**RESOLUTION #5: OPHA Injury Prevention Workgroup**

**WHEREAS** injuries are a significant burden to Ontario citizens, their families and to our health care system, as shown by the 1.2 million injury related emergency room visits and the 62,000 hospital admissions occurring during the fiscal year 2002-2003 (ICES, 2005);

**WHEREAS** children, youth and seniors, aboriginal peoples have particularly high rates of injury;

**WHEREAS** the economic burden of unintentional and intentional injury to Canadians is an estimated \$12.7 billion dollars annually;

**AND FURTHER** the economic burden of unintentional injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning cost Ontarians is over \$3 billion dollars annually;

**AND FURTHER** the cost of intentional injuries such as such as assault, homicide, suicide, and self-mutilation add significantly to the economic burden of injuries overall;

**WHEREAS** substance abuse, particularly alcohol use, is a major factor in both intentional and unintentional injuries, and thus should also be considered in the cost of preventable injuries to Ontario's taxpayers;

**WHEREAS** the Chief Medical Officer of Health, in his report entitled *Injury: Predictable and Preventable* (MOHLTC, 2002), recommended creating a provincial framework to integrate, coordinate and build upon an adopted national framework including a strategy to address the role of alcohol and the increased risk of injury;

**WHEREAS** a national injury prevention strategy has been proposed by SMARTRISK, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and its other partners, efforts are needed to create a provincial coalition to develop a provincial injury prevention strategy;

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Public Health has supported the development of a coordinated provincial injury prevention strategy as expressed in its letter (OPHA, August 15, 2005) to the Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Dalton McGuinty;

**WHEREAS** on August 8, 2007, the Ministry of Health Promotion launched Ontario's Injury Prevention Strategy to reduce the frequency, severity and impact of preventable injury in the province.

**WHEREAS** the purpose of the Ontario Injury Prevention Strategy is to engage and mobilize a broad range of partners to build on the current activities carried out by public health units, community organizations, non-governmental organizations and government ministries.

**WHEREAS** there is currently no group in place to assist in the implementation of the Ontario Injury Prevention Strategy and there is minimal funding.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT MOVED** that an OPHA injury prevention workgroup be formed which focuses on implementing the Ontario Injury Prevention Strategy and advocating for increased resources to address this significant health issue. The workgroup will work with other existing OPHA workgroups to coordinate and integrate key messages.

**Implementation Plan**

1. Form workgroup and develop terms of reference to facilitate the implementation of the Ontario Injury Prevention Strategy.
2. Develop a workplan for 2009/2010 and set priorities.

**Regarding Resolutions, Position Papers, and Motions:**

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers, and motions) are categorized as:

**Active, if:**

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed,
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

**Archived, if:**

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed, or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supercedes the latter.

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