



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

The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

700 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 310
Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B4

Tel: (416) 367-3313
1-800-267-6817 (Ont)
Fax: (416) 367-2844
E-mail: info@opha.on.ca
www.opha.on.ca

Honorary Patron

The Hon. David C. Onley
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

President

Carol Timmings
E-mail: ctimmings@opha.on.ca

Executive Director

Connie Uetrecht
E-mail: cuetrecht@opha.on.ca

Constituent Societies

ANDSOOHA – Public Health
Nursing Management in Ontario

Association of Ontario
Health Centres

Association of Public Health
Epidemiologists in Ontario

Association of Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of Ontario

Canadian Institute of Public
Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch)

Community Health Nurses' Initiatives
Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario:
Public Health

Ontario Association of Public Health
Dentistry

Ontario Public Health Libraries
Association

Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health

Public Health Research, Education
and Development (PHRED)
Program

Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

January 6th, 2004

Ms. Gemma Zecchini
President and CEO
Refreshments Canada

Dear Ms. Zecchini,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ontario Public Health Association with respect to your recent announcement (January 5th, 2004) that the Canadian soft drink industry has voluntarily decided to pull all its carbonated beverages from elementary and junior high schools in the country by the beginning of the next school year.

OPHA would like to acknowledge this positive move by the refreshment industry in response to concerns raised by Canadian parents, health professionals and educators. Given the rapid rise in rates of childhood overweight and obesity, it is important that real measures are taken to ensure that Canadian schools provide environments that are supportive of healthier food and beverage choices. This move provides an excellent example of such a measure and will perhaps serve as a model for other groups. I would only like to add that we would prefer to see that carbonated drinks are replaced with water and 100% fruit juices rather than fruit drinks and sport drinks.

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) was founded in 1949 and is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association. OPHA is an organization of individuals and Constituent Associations from various sectors and disciplines that have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario. The mission of the Ontario Public Health Association is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

Again, we congratulate you on this important step in addressing issues related to school nutrition.

Sincerely,

David MacKinnon
Executive Director
Ontario Public Health Association

cc: The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for Ontario
The Honourable Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education for Ontario