

## Media Release

### Capacity Review Committee Report will strengthen public health in Ontario: OPHA

May 4, 2006 - The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) strongly encourages Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to implement all of the recommendations contained in "Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity: The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC),

"We are encouraged by the CRC's vision of enhanced public health capacity and stronger health units," stated OPHA President Dr. Garry Aslanyan. "We congratulate the Committee for recognizing the importance of autonomy and sustained funding."

OPHA, a non-profit association representing individual members and ten constituent societies in all areas of public health, looks forward to working with local health units and the provincial government to implement the CRC's comprehensive human resource strategy. The strategy, which includes marketing public health professions and strengthening professional development and leadership, is one of many which mirror the recommendations made by OPHA to the Committee last fall.

"With our member constituent societies and the work we've undertaken on public health core competencies, OPHA is uniquely positioned to work with the government on human resource recruiting, retention and professional development strategies," Aslanyan added. "The proposed Public Health Human Resource Action Team is of particular interest to us and our members, most of whom are front-line public health staff and professional leaders."

Accountability and governance are two other areas in which the OPHA's recommendations were reflected in the final report. OPHA is pleased that the CRC is advocating performance management standards and mandatory accreditation as well as skills-based autonomous local boards of health that include both municipal and locally appointed community representatives.

"We welcome the introduction of a framework for stable and predictable funding for health units and the return to 100% funding for Public Health Research, Education and Development Programs," said Connie Uetrecht, OPHA Interim Executive Director. "Along with the amalgamation of a number of smaller health units, these steps will ensure that health units have the capacity to deliver all mandated services, based on evidence and best practices, to the people of Ontario."

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*Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association. OPHA is an organization of individuals and ten Constituent Societies from various sectors and disciplines that have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario. For more details visit [www.opha.on.ca](http://www.opha.on.ca).*

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