

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## OPHA welcomes Ontario's Injury Prevention Strategy

Toronto, August 8, 2007 - The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) congratulates the McGuinty government on today's release of a multifaceted injury prevention strategy, including ongoing funding for OPHA's injury prevention projects.

"The financial support confirmed today is obviously welcome as it enables us to continue and expand on some very important work," said Dr Garry Aslanyan, OPHA President, "We are also equally pleased to see the Ministry of Health Promotion formally recognize the essential role of Public Health in preventing injuries."

The announced strategy, "Working Together for a Safer, Healthier Ontario", includes four stated strategic directions. "The strategic directions of community partnerships and mobilization, public education and engagement, safe environments, and healthy public policy are well aligned with the work of Public Health in injury prevention," said OPHA Executive Director Connie Uetrecht, adding "we are encouraged to see determinants of health included as a foundation of this population health strategy."

OPHA currently oversees a number of injury prevention initiatives, including the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre services provided by SMARTRISK; and support for public health managers overseeing the Injury Prevention Including Substance Abuse Prevention mandatory program, with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.

OPHA looks forward to continuing and expanding its work with the government on this initiative and the many programs that promote and protect the health of the residents of this province.

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