



2005 Joint Conference of the OPHA/alPHa features an Unparalleled Line-up of Speakers and Sessions Focused on *Determining Health Through Public Health Action*

Toronto, Nov. 10 – Over 500 public health practitioners, individuals interested in public health and Board of Health members will gather together to network and listen to a variety of dynamic and high profile speakers, and learn through poster sessions and exhibits at the joint OPHA/alPHa conference being held on November 22 and 23 at the Toronto Westin Harbour Castle Hotel.

“We are pleased that delegates will have the opportunity to hear from a line-up of impressive speakers from across the country and beyond,” said Larry O’Connor, alPHa President. “The theme for the conference is truly fitting with the current transformation taking place with public health in Ontario,” said Garry Aslanyan, OPHA President.

A series of keynote speakers will feature prominently at this year’s conference. Highlights include:

- Dr. David Butler-Jones, Canada’s first Chief Public Health Officer heading up the newly created Public Health Agency of Canada
- Dr. John Frank, Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health
- Dr. David Gordon, Director of the Townsend Centre for International Poverty Research
- Paula Todd, Author and co-host of Studio 2 on TV Ontario.
- Closing panel consisting of Dr. Sheela Basrur, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Geoff Dunkley, Co-chair, Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Agency Implementation Task Force, and Dr. David Butler-Jones

The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion will open the conference and Premier Dalton McGuinty will be awarded the Smoke-Free Award at the Presidents’ Reception.

Award ceremonies will be held by alPHa prior to the conference for recipients of the 2005 Distinguished Service Award and by OPHA during the conference for recipients of the life and honorary membership awards, and for students pursuing graduate studies.

Visit the conference website – www.publichealthaction.ca for specifics on the sessions.

OPHA

Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable association that provides leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthens the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

aPHa

As the provincial organization presenting public health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) 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.

Please note: Interviews with speakers can be arranged on site, following the presentation. Access to conference sessions by media representatives is complementary, but you must register and obtain an identification badge at the conference registration desk. Final programs will be available at that time.

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For more information, please contact:

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