



**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.

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**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

July 20, 2004

**To: Hon. Dalton McGuinty  
Premier**

Dear Premier,

Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association 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 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.

Funding for the health system is a concern of all Canadians, and public health is the cornerstone of a sustainable health system. Public health issues have been of great importance in Canada over the past several years, as SARS, West Nile, BSE ('mad cow') and preventable chronic conditions such as heart disease and cancer relentlessly pressure the health care system. Attention to prevention of disease is a clear way to reduce such pressures. We have attached for your information a [fact sheet](#) on "What is Public Health" developed by the Canadian Public Health Association.

Recent initiatives such as "Operation Health Protection", the Ontario public health infrastructure and renewal plan, show that your government recognizes the importance of disease prevention and health promotion and is committed to supporting and revitalizing public health. Your solutions for addressing the health issues of Ontarians will set an example at the upcoming First Minister's Health Summit.

As you prepare for the Summit, we encourage you to continue to focus on financing the prevention side of the health equation, in addition to other important issues faced by the health care system.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Wiebe      Dr. Garry Aslanyan