

Development of National and Provincial Urban Health Strategies

A motion adopted at the 2002 OPHA Annual General Meeting

Code: 2002-01 (MT)

Status: Active

Resolution

WHEREAS the 2001 Census confirms that 80% of people in Canada live in urban centres;

WHEREAS it is well documented that cities face increasing health challenges in the face of decreasing resources;

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) identified that cities are facing increasing poverty, housing and homeless crises, inadequate transportation infrastructure, increasing health risks from worsening air quality and water quality, and deteriorating quality of life;

AND FURTHER the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues recognized that Canada's cities are ailing and finding it increasingly difficult to provide basic services and maintain infrastructure and have few ways to generate revenue other than through property taxes;

WHEREAS the American College of Physicians identified that cities generally have high incidence and prevalence of illness and death from diseases and conditions including: tuberculosis, asthma, diabetes, renal disease, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, mental illness, cancer, AIDS, HIV infection, sexually transmitted disease, infant mortality and trauma caused by violence and substance abuse;

WHEREAS the changing role of senior levels of government and downloading of services to municipalities have increased the responsibilities of cities in the provision of key health and social services;

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Health introduced the Rural Health Policy in recognition of the particular service challenges of northern and rural areas of the province;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT MOVED that the requirements of diverse urban environments, with concentrations of high density-low income areas, new immigrant populations, mobile populations and isolated seniors be addressed;

BE IT FURTHER MOVED that Ontario Public Health Association explore mechanisms to increase awareness and enhance the focus on urban health issues;

AND FURTHER, that Ontario Public Health Association collaborate with the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and other relevant organizations/associations to urge both the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

and Government of Canada to take leadership in the development of a Provincial and National Urban Health Strategies.

Implementation Plan:

1. Ontario Public Health Association Board will take appropriate measures to disseminate the approved motion to Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), Association of Municipal Organizations (AMO), Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and Health Canada.
2. Ontario Public Health Association will convene a work group with appropriate stakeholders to develop a provincial urban health strategy and to collaborate with CPHA in furthering the development of a national urban health strategy.

Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

ACTIVE, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

ARCHIVED, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

Reproduction: This document is the property of the OPHA. It may be freely referenced with full acknowledgement of the OPHA, and may not be used for commercial purposes.