1 May 2013

Re: Changes to the coordination of the Eat Smart!® program

Dear Colleague and Public Health Partner,

Since 1999, the Nutrition Resource Centre (NRC) through the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) has been funded by the provincial government to support nutrition professionals in public health, community health centres, family health teams and non-government organizations to implement provincial healthy eating programs and to develop and disseminate provincial nutrition resources.

Prior to 2012-13, the NRC had been primarily focused on the coordination of four programs – Colour It Up, Eat Smart!®, NutriSTEP® and the Community Food Advisor program. Starting 1st April, 2013, the NRC undertook new programming functions that include:

1. knowledge exchange and transfer,
2. capacity building, and
3. policy development and implementation at the local level across the province.

As a result, the NRC is evolving its role as program and services coordinator to that of an advisor.

The NRC has taken steps to ensure the transition of this coordination role, in order to assume the new roles and responsibilities that were implemented in 2012-13. Throughout the course of 2012-13, OPHA has been providing updates to our public and community health partners that the Eat Smart!® program will not be coordinated provincially by NRC as of 1st April, 2013.
Please be advised of the following transition steps:

- The Eat Smart!® website (http://eatsmartontario.ca/) will remain active until January 2014, after which the website will no longer be active,
- The NRC will provide the public health units currently implementing Eat Smart!® with teleconference capability until 30th June, 2013,
- The Eat Smart!® Choices Calculator will be housed on the NRC website after the Eat Smart!® website becomes inactive starting February 2014,
- Current Eat Smart!® public health unit coordinators can request original Eat Smart!® electronic documents from the NRC,
- Print materials will be the responsibility of individual health units who are continuing to run the program,
- Any organization wishing to utilize the Eat Smart!® logo may contact the NRC for directions to address this matter.

Should you have any questions please do contact Ashley Ecker, Consultant, Nutrition Resource Centre at 416-367-3313 x232 or aecker@opha.on.ca.

Sincerely,

Siu Mee Cheng

Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
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