



**Ontario Public Health Association**  
l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario  
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**RESOLUTION: # 7      ADVOCATE FOR A PROVINCIAL  
STRATEGY FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER  
DRUGS**

A Resolution adopted by the  
Ontario Public Health Association  
*Code: 2007-07 (RES) / Status: Active*

**RESOLUTION: #7      ADVOCATE FOR A PROVINCIAL  
STRATEGY FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER  
DRUGS**

**WHEREAS** The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse estimates that in 2002 the total costs associated with substance use in Canada (all substances including tobacco) were \$39.8 billion, or \$1,267 per capita; and

**WHEREAS** The annual economic impact in Ontario of alcohol is \$5.3 billion and of illicit drugs is \$2.9 billion in health, law enforcement and lost labour productivity costs; and

**WHEREAS** Public health units/departments have a direct mandate in several key areas related to the use of alcohol and other drugs, specifically: chronic disease prevention, injury prevention, substance abuse prevention and harm reduction such as needle exchange; and

**WHEREAS** The Province of Ontario does not have a comprehensive strategy to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drug use; and

**WHEREAS** The Health Education and Enforcement Partnership (HEP) in Ontario (in which OPHA has been a participant) has secured broad sector-wide support to develop a comprehensive provincial drug strategy based on the four components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the OPHA request that the provincial government develop a comprehensive provincial strategy for alcohol and other drugs based on the four components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement, in collaboration with the Ontario Health Education and Enforcement Partnership (HEP) initiative, led by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; and

**THAT** OPHA recommend that boards of health in Ontario advocate for a comprehensive provincial strategy for alcohol and other drugs.

**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,
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 supercedes the latter.

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