



Ontario Public Health Association

l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario

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RESOLUTION: #4
PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM RENEWAL IN ONTARIO

A Resolution adopted by the
Ontario Public Health Association
Code: 2007-04 (RES) *Status:* Active

RESOLUTION #4: PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM RENEWAL IN ONTARIO

WHEREAS the OPHA Board of Directors, on behalf of the membership has been monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) and has had extensive discussion about public health system renewal;

WHEREAS the provincial government has embarked on the renewal of public health in Ontario through Operation Health Protection, has made important progress in areas such as the formation of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and development of public health standards and protocols, and has undertaken some initiatives to improve the training, recruitment and retention of public health professionals;

WHEREAS numerous recommendations of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) have yet to be implemented;

WHEREAS population health goals are encompassed in the Ontario Public Health Standards and are best achieved through cross-sectoral partnership and collaboration;

WHEREAS public health is mandated to engage and partner across a variety of sectors including, but not limited to:

- education
- environment
- social services
- child and youth services
- municipalities
- Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)
- local community organizations
- agriculture
- the voluntary sector, and
- the primary care sector;

WHEREAS public health maintains a broad population perspective and public health can most effectively fulfill its mandate and distinct goals by serving as a bridge across sectors;

WHEREAS when LHINs were created, public health retained its mandate and was not incorporated into the LHINs;

WHEREAS the evidence shows that the reorganization of health services in other jurisdictions which subsumed public health has often weakened relationships between public health and important partners such as municipalities, resulted in erosion of public health capacity and diverted resources and attention from public health programming to clinical issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT OPHA urge the government of Ontario to develop a detailed three year implementation plan for all outstanding CRC recommendations, with its implementation to be completed by 2010;

THAT OPHA advocate the adoption and implementation of public health standards and protocols by spring, 2008;

THAT OPHA reaffirms the advantages of maintaining public health separate from the LHINs;

THAT OPHA explore collaboration with relevant ministries to develop tools that facilitate cross-sectoral partnerships, such as guidelines, training modules and templates for memoranda of understanding between public health and LHINs and;

THAT OPHA share the *An OPHA Policy Discussion Paper on Public Health, Local Health Integration Networks and Regional Health Authorities* with Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP), Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), all public health units, and the members of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

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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