



RESOLUTION #2
CORE COMPETENCIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IN CANADA

A Resolution adopted by the
Ontario Public Health Association
Code 2008-02 (RES) *Status* Active

RESOLUTION #2: Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada

WHEREAS the necessity to renew the infrastructure of public health was identified by various federal, provincial and federal/provincial/territorial commissions and committees following the occurrence of threats to public health like SARS, Walkerton and West Nile.

WHEREAS the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) accepted the proposal made by the Joint Task Group on Public Health Human Resources to lead the process of strengthening public health practice in Canada by working with public health practitioners and all levels of government to establish a refined set of core competencies for public health in Canada documented in the September 2007 report, *Core Competencies For Public Health in Canada Release 1.0*.

WHEREAS According to PHAC, Core Competencies are the set of skills, knowledge and abilities necessary for the broad practice of public health that transcend the boundaries of the specific disciplines in public health and reflect a public health approach to health issues.

WHEREAS PHAC indicates that Core Competencies will benefit the people who work in public health by:

- Providing guidelines for the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes required by individual practitioners in public health
- Supporting the recruitment, development and retention of public health practitioners
- Providing a rational basis for developing curricula, training and professional development tools
- Improving consistency in job descriptions and performance assessment
- Supporting the development of discipline and program specific sets of competencies.

WHEREAS PHAC notes that the adoption of core competencies in public health requires acceptance and commitment from a variety of groups including federal and provincial /territorial governments, regional health authorities and local public health units, employers and organizations, human resource departments and managers, unions, public health associations (national and provincial/territorial), professional associations and disciplines, regulatory bodies, academic institutions and individual public health practitioners.

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) identified the need to define the core competencies of public health in Ontario and were one of the key agencies involved in initiating the development of the core competencies for public health practice in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPHA write a letter recommending to the Minister of Health Promotion, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and the Chief Medical Officer of Health that mandatory training modules and tools be developed provincially to assist all Public Health Units in Ontario in implementing the Core Competencies for Public Health Practice in Canada released by PHAC.

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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