



**Ontario Public Health Association**  
l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario  
Established/Établi 1949

Tel: (416) 367-3313  
1-800-267-6817 (Ont)  
Fax: (416) 367-2844  
E-mail: [info@opha.on.ca](mailto:info@opha.on.ca)  
[www.opha.on.ca](http://www.opha.on.ca)

**Honorary Patron**  
The Hon. David C. Onley  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

**President**  
Elizabeth Haugh  
E-mail: [lhaugh@wechealthunit.org](mailto:lhaugh@wechealthunit.org)

**Executive Director**  
Connie Uetrecht  
E-mail: [cuetrecht@opha.on.ca](mailto:cuetrecht@opha.on.ca)

**Constituent Societies**  
ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing  
Management in Ontario

Association of Ontario  
Health Centres

Association of Public Health  
Epidemiologists in Ontario

Association of Supervisors of Public Health  
Inspectors of Ontario

Canadian Institute of Public Health  
Inspectors (Ontario Branch)

Community Health Nurses' Initiatives Group  
(RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario

Ontario Association of Public Health  
Dentistry

Ontario Public Health Libraries Association

Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in  
Public Health

Public Health Research, Education and  
Development (PHRED) Program

Charitable Registration  
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

November 9th, 2010

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq PC, MP  
Minister of Health  
Health Canada, Brooke Claxton Building,  
Tunney's Pasture, Postal Locator: 0906C  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) would like to congratulate you and the Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health on your recent commitment to curb childhood obesity as outlined in **Curbing Childhood Obesity: A Federal, Provincial and Territorial Framework for Action to Promote Healthy Weights.**

OPHA is a not-for-profit organization with a unique interdisciplinary and multifaceted structure that provides a unified and independent approach to safeguarding and improving the health of all Ontarians. For over 60 years, OPHA has provided leadership on important issues and has served as a catalyst for strengthening public and community health by supporting key functions such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, monitoring health status and decreasing disparities. Through strategic collaborations and partnerships, OPHA is increasingly positioning itself as the voice of public health in Ontario.

The public health community in Ontario has been striving to address childhood obesity for many years but our efforts have the potential to be more effective with stronger leadership, all of government approaches, long term commitment and adequate funding to address this urgent issue. Our Association has been speaking out about the lack of sufficient action for some time.

We are pleased to see that our Framework is comprehensive. Leadership on the issue is extremely important and it has become evident that in order to address the issue an “all of government” approach at all levels of government will be required. Creating supportive social and physical environments for increased physical active and healthy eating and improving access to nutritious foods are essential elements of a comprehensive strategy. We are particularly pleased to see that the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life was identified as an evidence-based strategy. Our Association has been promoting the WHO breastfeeding-friendly initiative for many years and we are excited to see it identified in your document. We are also well aware of the influence of poverty on access to both healthy food and physical activity opportunities and are pleased to see that initiatives to mitigate the effects of poverty are being identified for action. Key component of any public health strategy is to monitor programs and measure its impact.

Once again, OPHA applauds your commitment to addressing this important public health issue.

Sincerely,



Liz Haugh,  
President

cc: Honourable Deb Mathews, Minister of Health and Long-Term  
Care  
Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion and  
Sport  
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health