



The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

Ontario Public Health Association

l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario

Established/Établi 1949

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Public Health Research, Education and
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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

September 13th, 2010

Honourable Deb Mathews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor Hepburn Block, 80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1R3

Re: The H1N1 Pandemic – How Ontario Fared - CMOH Report and Recommendations

Dear Minister Mathews:

On behalf of members of the Ontario Public Health Association, I would like to provide our input into the proposed legislative changes being recommended by Dr. Arlene King in her report: The H1N1 Pandemic – How Ontario Fared.

First, we would like to thank Dr. King for the timely public report on her assessment of Ontario's response to the pandemic. It is important that the public hear directly from Dr. King.

It is our understanding that a complete independent evaluation of the H1N1 pandemic response is being conducted and that the results will be released later this year. In light of fact that the final results are not yet available, it is our position that it is premature to propose any amendments to the Health Protection and Promotion Act giving the CMOH authority to issue directives to local public health units.

In addition, it is our position that, prior to any legislative change or change in protocols or other means, extensive field consultation is required in order to arrive at recommendations that would result in better outcome across the province. There needs to be a better understanding about what would work in each jurisdiction in order to recommend processes for improvement.

We therefore request that you delay any legislative changes and undertake extensive field consultation on the recommendations for improvements in pandemic response once the final formal evaluation of the response is released.

Sincerely,

Liz Haugh
President

c.c. Dr. Arlene King