

700 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 310
Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B4

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

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

President
Carol Timmings
E-mail: ctimmings@opha.on.ca

Executive Director
Connie Uetrecht
E-mail: 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

February 19th, 2009

SOGC,
780 promenade Echo Dr.,
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5R7

Attention: André B. Lalonde, MD, FRCSC, FACS, MSc

Re: Breastfeeding Position Paper

Dear Dr. Lalonde:

I am writing on behalf of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) in response to your letter written January 19th, 2009 expressing your desire to collaborate with OPHA to support breastfeeding through the development of a national policy.

As you are aware, the recommendations of Health Canada for infant feeding have been supported by Canadian professional groups, including the College of Family Physicians of Canada in the Infant Feeding Policy statement of 2004, the Canadian Paediatric Society recommendation of March 2005, the Canadian Pharmacists Association in their Position Statement on Breastfeeding and the Dieticians of Canada in the revised Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants.

We agree that in order to further improve initiation and duration rates of breastfeeding, it is necessary to create a Canadian national breastfeeding policy endorsed by all professional health associations and members of the public and created through a national forum on the topic. This policy would support the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes and as well as Baby Friendly Initiative designation for hospitals and community health services. Your letter indicates that the Canadian Paediatric Society is already involved in developing a national forum to come out with a national policy. We would strongly support this initiative.

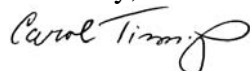
-2-

As a provincial organization we are also interested in the development of a provincial breastfeeding strategy. The Ontario Breastfeeding Committee, Best Start Resource Centre, the Provincial Council for Children's Health, the Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and the Association of Ontario Midwives are among the many organizations which support the OPHA in the development of a provincial strategy.

The OPHA is interested in collaborating with your professional group in order to support a national strategy and facilitate a provincial strategy related to breastfeeding. Please direct any inquiries to the OPHA Breastfeeding Promotion Workgroup member, Lori Levère at leverel@region.peel.on.ca or at 905-791-7800 ext. 2662.

I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you.

Sincerely,



Carol Timmings
President