



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

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.

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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:
Public Health

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 20, 2003

**The Honourable Pierre Pettigrew
Minister for International Trade**

Dear Minister,

The Ontario Public Health Association has been the voice of public health in Ontario since 1949. We are a charitable organization representing individuals and Constituent Societies from various sectors and disciplines working to improve the health of the people in Canada's largest province.

On [July 23, 2002](#), we asked your department to address [15 questions](#) regarding the impact of international trade negotiations on the ability of provincial and territorial governments to continue to control the manufacture, sale, service and promotion of beverage alcohol. To date, we have yet to receive a response.

As you know, alcohol exacts a heavy toll on the health and safety of Canadians. Globally, its impact on morbidity and mortality is greater than tobacco (WHO, 2001). We know that your government is committed to protecting the health of individuals and communities, but simple assurances are not enough.

With the deadline for Canada to make GATS offers fast approaching we would appreciate receiving a detailed response to our questions. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jack Lee,
Executive Director