



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.

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:
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

June 24, 2002

**To: Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Health and Long Term Care**

Dear Minister Clement:

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is an organization of individuals and constituent societies from various sectors and disciplines, who have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario.

OPHA is committed to the basic principles underlying public health including health promotion and disease prevention. For this reason OPHA has long supported a strategy aimed at tobacco prevention and smoking cessation.

The announcement in the recent Provincial budget, which establishes a cigarette tax of \$5.00 per carton is to be applauded. The evidence is clear that tobacco purchases drop inversely to the increase in cost. The tax as announced will move Ontario in that positive direction.

However, the tax alone is not sufficient. Experience in other jurisdictions, such as California and Massachusetts, demonstrate clearly the need for an integrated approach that also incorporates education, communication strategies and smoking cessation programs. For this reason OPHA urges you to take the next step and to direct some of the funds from the tobacco tax towards the implementation of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy.

OPHA is a participating member of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy Steering Committee and urges you to adopt the recommendation in its recently completed **Enhancing Health in Ontario by Strengthening the Ontario Tobacco Strategy**.

OPHA would be willing to work collaboratively with the Public Health Branch of the Ministry on initiatives dealing with this important health issue.

Sincerely,

Connie Uetrecht
President, OPHA Board of Directors