

Chair/Vice-Chair, Reproductive Health Workgroup

Exciting Public Health Leadership Volunteer Opportunity

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) Reproductive Health Workgroup (RHWG) is looking for one individual to step into the Vice Chair role to start on April 1, 2023.

The RHWG is a dynamic group of about 30 public health and other professionals who are interested in promoting and advocating for reproductive health within Ontario. The workgroup focuses on a broad range of reproductive health issues and advocates for accessible and equitable services and supports. This exciting leadership opportunity will allow you to connect with public and community health professionals from across the province and help promote reproductive health issues.

Activities and Time Commitment

The Chair/Vice Chair role is a two-year term. The first year aims to expose the Vice Chair to the activities of the OPHA RHWG and to learn about the roles and responsibilities of the Chair. In the second year, the Vice Chair assumes the Chair role for the RHWG and a new Vice Chair is nominated to fill that role. The Chair and Vice Chair work together to support the activities of the RHWG. Some examples of Chair/Vice Chair responsibilities and activities include:

- Coordinating/chairing five virtual meetings annually (including preparing and distributing agenda and minutes)
- Leading a planning committee for a face-to-face meeting every 2 years.
- Coordinating/supporting RHWG advocacy initiatives and task groups
- Sharing communication of relevant reproductive health issues to RHWG
- Creating the RHWG two-year workplan & leading workplan update when close to expiry
- Keeping administrative tasks up-to-date (e.g., membership list, accomplishments & ongoing work updates on webpage, ongoing communication with OPHA ED, etc.)
- Participating in other OPHA meetings (virtually) including attending the Annual General Meeting
- Representing RHWG on external advocacy opportunities and meetings as needed.



OPHA has established a strong record of success as the voice for public health in Ontario. As a member-based, not-for-profit association, OPHA has been providing leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthens the impact of those who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. OPHA is unique in that our membership represents many disciplines from across multiple sectors. As such, OPHA has a number of volunteer subject matter expert workgroups that help drive issues for OPHA, including an active Reproductive Health Workgroup (RHWG).

- RHWG members represent a wide variety of disciplines and organizations, with many from Public Health Units across the province. Some examples of recent RHWG activities include:
- Advocating for inclusion of reproductive health priorities in the COVID-19 pandemic response (Mar 2020).
 - Exploring opportunity for a provincial preconception health campaign (2019).
 - Exploring collaborations with OPHA Alcohol and Cannabis Workgroups (2019).
 - Drafting an advocacy letter to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to explore updating signage for Bill 43 Sandy's Law (Feb 2019).
 - Exploring advocacy for OHIP preconception health billing code (2018-2019).
 - Providing input on the Centre for Effective Practice on the Preconception Health Care Tool (Dec 2018).
 - Co-presenting a position paper 'Informed Decision-Making for Labour and Birth' (2nd ed.) with Dr. Sarah Buckley at the 31st Annual Southwestern Ontario Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Network Perinatal Outreach Conference (Sept 2018).
 - Updating the Informed Decision-Making for Labour and Birth (2nd ed.) position paper (Sept 2018).
 - Endorsing the 2019 Canadian guideline for physical activity throughout pregnancy (July 2018).
 - Developing a preconception health position paper, 'Shift – Enhancing the health of Ontarians: A call to action for preconception health promotion and care' (Feb 2015).

OPHA RHWG is looking for one individual to step into the Vice Chair role. Interested candidates should be willing to commit to the two-year term and be able to dedicate approximately 2 hours per week to support the RHWG. Both the Vice Chair and Chair role are volunteer positions and require OPHA membership in good standing.

Interested candidates should have:

1. Preferred 5 years of experience or equivalent working on reproductive health issues within a community or public health context in Ontario
2. Previous experience chairing committees or working groups
3. Excellent communication and organizational skills
4. Demonstrated experience with advocacy initiatives would be an asset

Successful candidates must be willing to become and maintain an OPHA membership for the duration of their term. For more information on membership, visit: <https://members.opha.on.ca/join-today/>

How to apply:

Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and CV to **Hilary Brown** at hk.brown@utoronto.ca and **Deanna Stirling** at deanna-stirling@hotmail.com by **February 15, 2023**

For more information:

Please contact Hilary Brown and Deanna Stirling or visit <https://opha.on.ca/what-we-do/workgroups/reproductive-health/>