



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

Alliance for Healthier Communities

Association of Public Health
 Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)

Association of Supervisors of
 Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
 (ASPPIO)

Canadian Institute of Public Health
 Inspectors (Ontario Branch) (CIPHIO)

Community Health Nurses'
 Initiatives Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)

Ontario Association of Public
 Health Dentistry (OAPHD)

Ontario Association of Public Health
 Nursing Leaders, (OAPHNL)

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
 (ODPH)

Ontario Society of Physical Activity
 Promoters in Public Health (OSPAPPH)

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 Number 11924 8771 RR0001

August 7, 2018

Honourable Christine Elliott
 Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
 10th Floor, Hepburn Block
 80 Grosvenor Street
 Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Elliott,

On behalf of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) our Board of Directors, Constituent Societies and members, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to promote optimal health for all Ontarians. Your government's commitment to increasing access to dental care for low-income seniors, investing \$3.8 billion into mental health, addictions and supportive housing and increasing affordable housing while protecting the Greenbelt are excellent steps toward making Ontario the healthiest province in Canada.

We appreciate your government's focus on finding efficiencies and strengthening the healthcare system. Preventative health interventions and policies, such as Smoke-Free Ontario, have demonstrated significant savings for the province and greatly improved overall health and wellbeing for its residents. OPHA was pleased to be a partner in a recently released study on Health Care Cost of Smoking in Ontario, 2003 to 2041 conducted by Dr. Doug Manuel at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. This study showed that investing in strategies to encourage the decrease of unhealthy behaviours such as smoking, unhealthy eating, physical inactivity and alcohol misuse will go far to improve the health of Ontario's population, reduce hallway medicine, and improve the sustainability of our health care system. We will be pleased to share evidence and examples of both short and longer term preventive measures that can save costs while improving health.

OPHA is a member-based non-profit, non-partisan organization which has been providing an independent voice for public health for nearly 70 years. We bring together a broad spectrum of individuals and groups from various

backgrounds and sectors - public health, health care, academic, voluntary and private sectors. Our volunteer workgroups provide a unique cross disciplinary and cross-sectoral forum for addressing key public health issues. They focus on Reproductive Health, Breastfeeding, Health Equity, Chronic Disease Prevention, Cannabis, the Natural and Built Environment, Alcohol, and Mental Health. In addition, OPHA is actively involved in various effective collaborative partnerships. Our Executive Director is the current Chair of the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and Co-Chair of EcoHealth Ontario. We're especially excited about our new multi-year partnership with the Helderleigh Foundation that builds on our nutrition expertise and promotes food literacy.

My colleagues and I would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to explore ways OPHA and our members can support you and your ministry as you navigate through these and other complex issues to strengthen Ontario's health system. We will be calling your office shortly to see what can be arranged. I also wanted to extend an invitation to you and your team to two major events we are hosting later this fall - a forum on Cannabis in our Communities and Unpacking Food Literacy on November 13 and 14th respectively. Some 600 people are expected to attend over the two days. We would welcome your involvement and will be sending a separate invitation with more details.

Again, we extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment and best wishes in your role in leading Ontario's health system. OPHA looks forward to working with you and our new government to make that system the best one possible while contributing to optimal health for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg

President

More about the Ontario Public Health Association

We are a member-based, not-for-profit association that has been advancing the public health agenda since 1949. OPHA provides 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 does this through a variety of means including advocacy, capacity building, research and knowledge exchange. Our membership represents many disciplines from across multiple sectors.

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