



OSPAPPH Newsletter – September 2008

Hope you've all had a wonderful summer and that you're enjoying the sunshine that's been (finally) gracing us since the end of August! Although many members of the Executive were on (well-deserved) holidays over the summer months, we still got quite a bit of work done. Here's an update on what's we've been working on over the last few months:

Membership

The 2008 membership drive is going quite well. At last count we had 26 of the 36 Health Units on board. We would like to thank all of you for your continuing support.

Website

In case you didn't know, OSPAPPH has been online since Spring 2008. Our website is currently being hosted by Algoma Public Health (thank you!) and we invite everyone to check us out at www.ospapph.ca. Updates, membership information, responses as well as physical activity links are available online. Let us know what you think!

Incorporation

Great news: OSPAPPH is officially incorporated! As a reminder, here are the benefits to being incorporated:

- Protects members from any debts
- Ensures continuity of the Society
- Increases chances of receiving grants
- Can help with legal action
- Ensures a more successful growth.

This process has been lengthy and we'd like to thank Erika, our treasurer, for her involvement in helping OSPAPPH reach this next step.

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2008

The first official OSPAPPH Virtual AGM took place on June 9th and we'd like to thank all of you who took part in this event. The agenda as well as the ParticipACTION presentation are available online on our website for those of you

who couldn't make it or to share with your Health Unit. Here are results from two polls taken during the AGM:

- ✓ Question: Within the next six months, would you be interested in an additional virtual meeting to receive OSPAPPH updates and professional development? **22/26 Health Units said YES.**
- ✓ Question: Is there any interest in discussing PA promotion including strategies, tools, resources and partners in secondary schools? **22/26 Health Units expressed interest.**

The OSPAPPH Executive is looking into possibilities for future professional development opportunities as well as another virtual AGM for members. Stay tuned for more details! If you have any suggestions for professional development, please forward your ideas to your regional representative.

Strategic Plan

After many discussions and revisions, OSPAPPH is officially ready to reveal our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will provide members with direction and a framework upon which decisions and actions can be based. It also serves as a communication tool to inform existing and potential funders and partners of OSPAPPH's work. Please read the Strategic Plan, which is attached to this newsletter. Contact your regional representative for comments.

Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth 2008

Earlier this year, Active Healthy Kids Canada released its yearly report card on physical activity. Sadly, this year we received a dismal grade of 'D'. OSPAPPH responded to the report and calls out to all PA promoters to do their part in helping us achieve a higher standard in physical activity. Please check our website or click [here](#) for OSPAPPH's response.

Feedback & Partnerships

Over the last few months, OSPAPPH has become better known throughout the province and the public health sector and the association has been asked to comment on a number of submissions, which have gone through to the Ministry from different groups around the funding for Childhood Obesity. Currently, OSPAPPH sits on the Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. This and other strategic partnerships are a pivotal part of OSPAPPH fulfilling its mandate and ensuring the voice of Physical Activity is heard.

FYI: Heart and Stroke Mission Specialist

OSPAPPH has had an opportunity to sit down and chat with the Heart and Stroke Foundation about their Community Mission Specialists who work with local networks and professionals to deliver and support activities to engage communities and to help out with Community Advocacy Fund grant applicants. If you or your community are working on advocacy initiatives surrounding physical activity and would like support from the Heart and Stroke, please check their [website](#) to find out who your Community Mission Specialist is.

Physical Activity Promoter Scan

OSPAPPH is currently working on a Physical Activity Promoter in Public Health scan to get a better sense of the capacity of PA Promoters across the 36 Health Units. The scan is meant to help with creating realistic provincial initiatives with regards to Physical Activity promotion. OSPAPPH members and Chronic Disease Prevention Managers from our 36 Health Units will be asked to answer a short questionnaire to get a broader view of the people, the geography and the populations that we serve and to see exactly how many of us are working in Physical Activity in Public Health. More details will follow shortly.

Face-to-Face Executive Meeting

The Ministry of Health Promotion has supplied some funds to allow the members of the OSPAPPH Executive to meet for a two-day face-to-face meeting in Toronto at the end of November. This will allow us to continue to set out concrete plans and ideas for 2009. There is a possibility of a MHP representative sitting in for a portion of the meeting, which will allow us to further discussions on how OSPAPPH can support and work with MHP strategies and initiatives in physical activity. An update on the meeting will follow.

Executive Meetings

In addition to our face-to-face meeting, the OSPAPPH Executive meets by teleconference every 4 to 6 weeks. This is a great opportunity for members to have their voices heard through their regional representatives. If you or any member has any ideas or suggestions for actions, initiatives or if you have a comment, please forward it to your regional representative (see contact information below). Your voice is a pivotal part of OSPAPPH!

OSPAPPH Executive

Contact us with your ideas and suggestions. We love hearing from you!

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