



OSPAPPH Newsletter

September 2009

Update on the Executive

First of all, we would like to thank all of the outgoing OSPAPPH executive members for their hard work and dedication to the Society. All of your efforts are truly appreciated; your work with the executive has contributed to OSPAPPH getting off the ground. Thank you!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who expressed interest in becoming and/or remaining on the OSPAPPH executive for the second term. We are excited about the new faces that have joined the executive and we are looking forward to the work ahead. For the updated list of executive members please see the last page of this newsletter.

2009/2010 Membership

The 2009/2010 membership currently includes 27 of the 36 Health Units across the province. We would like to thank all of you for your continuing support. If any additional health units are interested in membership, you can contact your Regional Representative for more information (see contact information below).

Physical Activity Promoter Scan

OSPAPPH developed a Physical Activity Promoter in Public Health scan to obtain a better sense of the capacity of PA Promoters across the 36 Health Units. OSPAPPH members and Chronic Disease Prevention Managers from our 36 Health Units were 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 how many of us are working in physical activity.

The OSPAPPH executive would like to thank all of its members for their cooperation and participation in the physical activity scan process. Since our request for your agreement to use the physical activity scan data for publication, the academic we have been working with has decided not to pursue publication at this time. This is due to a variety of reasons including not having an adequate sample size to anonymously make comparisons between regions and the journal editor's request for information we did not capture. While we are disappointed that we cannot pursue publication at this time, we will proceed to have the data analyzed in order to share the results with our members as originally intended.

Once the scan is analyzed and the results are tabulated, we will be sending them out through email by the Regional Representatives. So please stay tuned!

Website

OSPAPPH has been online since May 2008. Our website is currently being hosted by Algoma Public Health, however this will soon be changing. We will be transferring to our new gracious host, the Physical Activity Resource Centre (PARC). Feel free to check out our new exciting web page that will soon go live!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Algoma Public Health for getting our website off the ground, and hosting it since the spring of 2008. This online support has provided us with a wonderful starting point that has increased awareness about the Society, as well as enabled us to communicate important information to our members.

We invite everyone to check us out at www.ospapph.ca. Updates, membership information, responses, as well as physical activity links are available on the website.

Virtual Annual General Meeting 2009

The second official OSPAPPH Virtual AGM took place on June 2nd, 2009 and we'd like to thank all members who participated in this event. The agenda as well as the Parks and Recreation Ontario presentation are available on our website for those of you who couldn't make it, or would like to share it with your Health Unit.

Professional Development

The OSPAPPH Executive is continuously looking into the possibilities of physical activity professional development opportunities.

International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health

OSPAPPH has been able to secure a group registration discount for OSPAPPH members. This will be helpful for those of you who may not have 5 or more people attending from within your Health Unit (5 or more is the requirement for the group rate). We will provide more details on how to access this group registration discount in the near future.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for professional development, please forward them to your Regional Representative.

Feedback & Partnerships

Since inception, OSPAPPH has become increasingly known provincially and nationally across the health sector. The Society has been asked to comment on a number of items, some of which have gone to the Ministry of Health Promotion from different groups around funding for childhood obesity. Currently, OSPAPPH sits on the Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. This strategic partnership is a pivotal part of OSPAPPH fulfilling its mandate and ensuring that the voice of Physical Activity Promoters is heard.

Current Involvement of OSPAPPH

OPHEA

OSPAPPH has been asked to take part in reviewing OPHEA's Curriculum Support Documents, which have been adapted for the new Health and Physical Education curriculum for K to grade 8. The executive will be part of the review process in the fall.

Parks and Recreation Ontario

As mentioned at the June 2009 AGM, PRO and OSPAPPH are working on a document to highlight overlap in the Ontario Public Health Standards that apply to Physical Activity Promotion and the mandates of local Parks and Recreation Departments. We hope to be able to present this tool for collaboration at PRO's 2010 conference.

We are also supporting an application PRO is submitting to the Ministry of Health Promotion for provincial Healthy Communities Funding. If funded, this will provide free professional development opportunities for any interested PA promoters and other public health staff to be trained as High Five trainers as well as attend Active Start workshops.

Dairy Farmers of Canada

The Dairy Farmers of Canada approached OSPAPPH to review an upcoming health education program to be launched early next year. *Power to Explore* is a new school nutrition and physical activity program targeted at junior level students. OSPAPPH is pleased to be approached to review this document to provide their physical activity expertise.

Executive Meetings

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 have 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

Please contact us with your ideas and suggestions. We enjoy hearing from you!

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