

September 29, 2012

Healthy Kids Panel

Email: [ChildhoodObesity@ontario.ca](mailto:ChildhoodObesity@ontario.ca)

Dear Honorary Members of the Healthy Kids Panel:

Please accept this submission on behalf of the collaborative Chronic Disease Prevention Work Group (CDPWG). CDPWG is a collaboration of public health professional associations and societies representing a broad spectrum of professionals and disciplines within the public and community health sectors. These associations and societies include:

- Ontario Public Health Association;
- Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health;
- Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health ;
- Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health;
- Health Promotion Ontario;
- Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry; and
- Registered Nurses Association of Ontario - Community Health Nurses Initiative Group.

Its purpose is to address the prevention of chronic disease within the province.

This report highlights five strategic actions that are intend to develop a course of action to combat childhood obesity. The recommendations presented are:

- Strategic provincial level actions;
- Supportive & enabling;
- Applicable to all populations;
- Incorporate social determinants of health;
- Focused on upstream efforts – prevention, health promotion & screening;
- Intended to spotlight the necessary and vital role that the public health sector plays in addressing childhood obesity in the province;
- Inclusive of the home, school & community settings;
- Reflective of the entire childhood lifecycle, from preconception to end of childhood; and
- Complementary of local public health unit approaches and models to addressing childhood obesity.

The five high level strategic actions expanded upon in this report are as follows:

1. Create supportive physical environments that promote healthy behaviours.
2. Enhance training and education of all professionals working with children.
3. Enhance public education, skill building and awareness with a specific focus on children.
4. Ensure public reporting of key health promotion and prevention performance indicators.
5. Build capacity within the public health sector to adequately address childhood obesity.

Specific recommendations relating to each action has been identified against each strategic action.

The CDPWG, as a collaboration of six associations and societies with expertise in diverse areas of public health, our workgroup is well positioned to play a role in supporting a future provincial childhood obesity strategy. We are a valuable government partner:

- 1) Provides advice and guidance to ensure that policy, program and services approaches are practical, implementable and applicable at the public health unit and local levels and advanced by public health front-line staff and management.
- 2) Provides advice and input that reflects a comprehensive group of public health disciplines to ensure that childhood obesity and healthy weights actions and approaches consider all necessary issues.
- 3) Acts as a single point of dissemination for government information, approaches and actions arising from a provincial obesity prevention strategy. The dissemination will be broad and rapid across the province to all key stakeholders through the collective membership of the collaborative CDPWG.
- 4) Acts as a single-point to enable broad consultation within Ontario across disciplines and sectors.
- 5) Enable pan-Canadian engagement and consultation through its national and provincial-territorial relationships and partnerships.

The CDPWG is happy to further discuss the enclosed strategic actions and recommendations, and the role the group can have in a provincial strategy. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (PH) 416-367-3313 x226 or (E) [scheng@opha.on.ca](mailto:scheng@opha.on.ca) at the Ontario Public Health Association.

Sincerely,



Siu Mee Cheng  
Executive Director  
Ontario Public Health Association

On behalf of the Collaborative Chronic Disease Prevention Work Group

Encl.

- c.c.
- L. Stinson, Ontario Public Health Association
  - C. Timmings, Ontario Public Health Association
  - E. Wodchis, Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health
  - A. Birks, Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health
  - R. Moon-Kelly, Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health
  - H. Thomas, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health

A. MacDonald, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health  
C. Lalonde, Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health  
L. Kaldeway, Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health  
T. Martin, Health Promotion Ontario  
L. Fellner, Health Promotion Ontario  
A. Gauthier, Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry  
C. Baker-Barill, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario - Community Health Nurses  
Initiative Group