

**Summary Report to ANDSOOHA Annual General Meeting – October 1, 2014
Ontario Public Health Board of Directors 2013/2014,**

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It's been a dynamic year for OPHA with the arrival of Larry Stinson as the new President, Pegeen Walsh as the Executive Director and an expanded new staff team. Welcome changes include more communication with members, more support for OPHA workgroups and lower membership fees for constituent societies and students. OPHA continues to be active in the four main areas professional development, advocacy, research partnerships, and promoting healthy eating and nutrition through its Nutrition Resource Centre and the Community Food Advisor Program. Highlights from each of these 4 areas are provided below.

Professional Development

OPHA is committed to strengthening the capacity and impact of public health professionals. Upcoming activities include:

- Fall Forum 2014: *Taking the Lead –Advancing Public Health Leadership*, Nov. 12 in Toronto;
- Lean Sigma Workshops (White & Yellow Belt), Nov. 13 and 14, 2014;
- Webinars (e.g. How are Ontarians really Doing: The Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Sept. 10);
- Creating a Leadership Centre to support leadership development at all levels through mentoring, programs for new managers, networking events and web based resources; and
- Recognizing excellence through its annual awards program.

Advocacy:

Through its advocacy to create healthy public policy, OPHA is calling for greater emphasis on health equity, obesity reduction, prevention and upstream approaches and the implementation of *Health in All Policies* legislation to ensure the determinants of health are front and centre in policy making across government. OPHA's eight workgroups are focused on issues such as:

- Environmental Health: a toxics reduction strategy;
- Built Environment: increasing collaboration between planners and public health professionals to create healthier communities through an e-learning course;
- Alcohol Prevention: creation of a provincial framework;
- Reproductive Health: a position paper on preconception health; and
- New Professionals: networking soirees for new professionals to connect with public health leaders.

Research:

OPHA is partnering with academics and others to increase support for investing in the public health system and positioning it for the future. Some activities include:

- building a stronger business case for public health to show the return on investment and potential costs savings;
- being the knowledge user for Dr. Doug Manuel's study through the Ottawa Research Institute, ICES and PHO on *900,000 Days in Hospital*, released at OPHA's panel at CPHA; it showed that \$1.8 billion could be saved by reducing risk behaviors associated with poor nutrition, alcohol abuse, smoking and inactivity;
- Collaborating on a dental health workforce study to forecast future needs.

Conclusion:

In the months ahead, OPHA will be ramping up its advocacy efforts as the legislature opens and doing more outreach with the media and other non-traditional stakeholders. It will continue to diversify its membership and services as well as introduce new ways to engage with its members. OPHA will continue to seek out opportunities to partner with others to achieve shared goals.