

AGENDA
**2009 alPHa ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING &
RESOLUTIONS SESSION**
Monday, June 15, 2009
8:00 – 9:30 AM
Rooms: Salon Cartier
Cedar Meadows Resort, 1000 Rue Norman Street, Timmins

CHAIR: Charles Gardner, President

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| 1. CALL TO ORDER | Charles Gardner |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | Charles Gardner |
| 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2008 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
<i>Held on June 9, 2008 in Alliston (attached)</i> | Charles Gardner |
| 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT | Charles Gardner |
| 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT | Linda Stewart |
| 6. REPORT OF THE TREASURER
<i>Approval of the 2008-2009 Audited Financial Statement</i> | Maria Harding |
| 7. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2009-2010 | Charles Gardner |
| 8. REPORT ON 2008 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 9. BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT (attached) | Brian Hughes |
| 10. COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH REPORT
(attached) | Lynn Noseworthy |
| 11. AFFILIATES' REPORT (attached) | Ken Gorman |
| 12. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 13. 2009 alPHa STRATEGIC PLAN (attached) | Linda Stewart |
| 14. OTHER BUSINESS | |
| 15. RESOLUTIONS SESSION | Charles Gardner |
| 16. ADJOURNMENT | |

REPORT ON 2008 RESOLUTIONS & ACTION TAKEN

A total of 13 resolutions were considered for adoption by the alPHa membership at the October Public Health Summit. The following actions have since been taken:

A08-1 Constitutional Change to Article 14.6 “General Meetings”

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies amend Article 14.6 of its Constitution under General Meetings to read as follows:

“The rules of order and procedure set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order shall prevail at all meetings of the Association.”

This resolution was carried and the alPHa Constitution was updated to reflect the change.

A08-2 - Establish Stricter Advertising Standards for Alcohol:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the federal government, Ontario government, and Advertising Standards Council to establish stricter advertising standards for alcohol.

December 11 2009

Reply received from the Premier's Office http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011591650.pdf.

November 21, 2008

A letter was written to the Premier of Ontario informing him of this and other alcohol-related resolutions passed in October 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011194118.pdf

A08-3 - Advocacy for an Enhanced Provincial Public Education and Promotion Campaign on the Negative Health Impacts of Alcohol Misuse

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the Ontario government to create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse as one component of a comprehensive strategy

December 11 2009

Reply received from the Premier's Office http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011591650.pdf.

November 21, 2008

A letter was written to the Premier of Ontario informing him of this and other alcohol-related

resolutions passed in October 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011194118.pdf

A08-4 - Eliminate the Availability of Alcohol Except in Liquor Control Board Outlets (LCBO) (i.e. Increase Point of Sale Control)

THAT that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) petition the Ontario government to maintain its monopoly on off-premise liquor sales through the Liquor Control Board of Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT alPHa petition the Ontario government to retain oversight of beverage alcohol at Ontario wineries, microbreweries and the Beer Store through the provisions of the Liquor License Act

AND FURTHER THAT alPHa petition the Ontario Government to fully consult with health experts, including but not limited to alPHa, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Ontario Public Health Association before making any policy changes.

December 11 2009

Reply received from the Premier's Office http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011591650.pdf.

November 21, 2008

A letter was written to the Premier of Ontario informing him of this and other alcohol-related resolutions passed in October 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011194118.pdf

A08-5 - Advocacy for Enactment of a 0% Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Limit on Drivers Until They Reach the Age of 21 Years:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the Ontario government to enact a 0% Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit on drivers until they reach the age of 21 years.

May 1 2009

Bill 126 amendments to the Highway Traffic Act passed into law, including the enactment of a 0% BAC for all drivers under the age of 22. This portion of the HTA is expected to come into force in 2010.

Feb 18 2009

alPHa has forwarded this and two other resolutions to the Standing Committee on General Government as it considers changes to Ontario's traffic safety legislation under Bill 126, Road Safety Act 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011521218.pdf

December 11 2009

Reply received from the Premier's Office http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011591650.pdf.

November 21, 2008

A letter was written to the Premier of Ontario informing him of this and other alcohol-related resolutions passed in October 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011194118.pdf

November 18 2008

Minister of Transportation James Bradley has introduced Bill 126, the Road Safety Act, which

will make several amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, including lowering the acceptable BAC for drivers to 0% up to and including 21 years of age, regardless of license status. The Government Press Release gives a handy summary of this and the other amendments.

A08-6 - Advocacy to Reduce the Legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) from 0.08% to 0.05%:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the Ontario government to reduce the legal BAC from 0.08% to 0.05%.

May 1 2009

Bill 126 amendments to the Highway Traffic Act passed into law, including the enactment of an immediate 3-day driver's license suspension if BAC is measured at more than 0.05%.

Feb 18 2008

alPHa has forwarded this and two other resolutions to the Standing Committee on General Government as it considers changes to Ontario's traffic safety legislation under Bill 126, Road Safety Act 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011521218.pdf

December 11 2009

Reply received from the Premier's Office http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011591650.pdf.

November 21, 2008

A letter was written to the Premier of Ontario informing him of this and other alcohol-related resolutions passed in October 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011194118.pdf

A08-7 - Promoting Safe Driving in Young Drivers

THAT alPHa request the Province that in the development of a comprehensive strategy for alcohol and other drugs, they include designated driver initiatives as one prevention measure with specific focus on youth

Feb 18 2008

alPHa has forwarded this and two other resolutions to the Standing Committee on General Government as it considers changes to Ontario's traffic safety legislation under Bill 126, Road Safety Act 2008. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011521218.pdf

A08-8 - Ensuring the Effectiveness of Graduated Licensing as an Injury Prevention Strategy:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommend to the provincial government that any changes to the graduated licensing program be accompanied by enhanced education and enforcement

May 1 2009

Bill 126, the Road Safety Act is passed into law, making several amendments to the Highway Traffic Act that are aimed at novice drivers.

November 18 2008

Minister of Transportation James Bradley has introduced Bill 126, the Road Safety Act, which

will make several amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, including "tougher penalties for novice drivers that increase with each violation of graduated licensing restrictions". It also imposes a longer learning period that will increase the minimum learning time required for full licensing from 20 to 30 months.

A08-9 - Back-to-School and Winter Clothing Allowances for Children in Families on Social Assistance:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies call upon the provincial government to continue to issue both the back-to-school and the winter clothing allowances;

AND FURTHER THAT these allowances be paid 100% by the Province of Ontario

March 23 2009

Response received from the Premier's Office to the March 4th letter.

http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011763010.pdf

March 4 2009

Letter written to the Premier, copied to all members of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, introducing this and three other poverty-related resolutions passed at the 2008 annual meeting. Please click here to read. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011630550.pdf

A08-10 - Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy:

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) call for a government commitment to implement a coordinated, long-term poverty strategy with targets, timelines, a dedicated budget and ongoing evaluation in order to achieve sustained results, including meeting a target of reducing 2005 poverty rates by 25% by 2012 and 50% by 2017.

AND FURTHER THAT ALPHA endorse the content and recommendations of the Campaign 2000 discussion paper, A Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario.

March 23 2009

Response received from the Premier's Office to the March 4th letter.

http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011763010.pdf

March 4 2009

Letter written to the Premier, copied to all members of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, introducing this and three other poverty-related resolutions passed at the 2008 annual meeting. Please click here to read. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011630550.pdf

March 13 2009 - Reply received from Minister Matthews

http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011653617.pdf

January 29, 2009

ALPHA and the OPHA have sent a joint letter to the Finance Minister and the Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction congratulating them on the release of Breaking the Cycle, Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy and suggesting several policy interventions that should be included. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011620728.pdf

December 4, 2008

The Provincial Government has announced its Poverty Reduction Strategy, as developed by the Cabinet Committee led by Deb Matthews. It commits to set a five-year target of reducing poverty by 25% as urged by the “25 in 5” coalition.

A08-11 Poverty Reduction Strategy Linked to Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Base Funding

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies urge the Government of Ontario to ensure that the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction identifies the HBHC Program as a critical intervention in a poverty reduction strategy;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario recognize that the HBHC Program provides services that Ontario’s families require, particularly low income families, that assist families to overcome the impact of poverty, provide children with a healthy start in life, and enhance opportunities for life-long success contributing to a strong Ontario economy;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario provide a significant increase to base funding to cover the full costs of delivery for all eligible clients for HBHC Programs along with annual increases to maintain service delivery to complement the poverty reduction strategy;

AND FURTHER THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies utilize the results of the HBHC alPHa survey conducted with its member boards of health to inform the development of an advocacy strategy focused on funding for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program;

AND FURTHER THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies work in partnership with other agencies or organizations regarding further advocacy strategies in support of the HBHC program.

March 23 2009

Response received from the Premier's Office to the March 4th letter
http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011763010.pdf

March 4 2009

Letter written to the Premier, copied to all members of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, introducing this and three other poverty-related resolutions passed at the 2008 annual meeting. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011630550.pdf

December 4 2008

The Provincial Government has announced its Poverty Reduction Strategy, as developed by the Cabinet Committee led by Deb Matthews. It mentions the existence of the HBHC program in the “Stronger Healthier Kids and Families”, but no enhancements.

Resolution A08-12 - Provincial Dental Program

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urge the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Provincial Poverty Reduction Committee and the Premier of Ontario to immediately implement the dental program for low income families as promised in the 2008 provincial budget.

March 23 2009

Response received from the Premier's Office to the March 4th letter.

http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011763010.pdf

March 4 2009

Letter written to the Premier, copied to all members of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, introducing this and three other poverty-related resolutions passed at the 2008 annual meeting. http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011630550.pdf

December 4, 2008

The Provincial Government has announced its Poverty Reduction Strategy, which repeats the promise of investing \$45M annually to provide dental care for low-income Ontarians. This is to include an expansion of CINOT provision up to 18 years of age, and “working with public health units to build community capacity to deliver prevention and treatment services to low-income Ontarians”

A08 - 13 Ban on Commercial Advertising of Food and Beverages to Children Under the Age of 13

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies call for a ban on all commercial advertising of food and beverages targeted to children under 13 years of age by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada;

AND FURTHER THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies partner with the Ontario Public Health Association, Toronto Public Health and other interested stakeholders to develop and implement an effective province-wide advocacy plan.

February 5 2009

As part of its annual winter meeting, ALPHA held a panel discussion on advertising to children in order to inform next steps for advocating on this resolution. Notes and presentations on the discussion are available in the Proceedings Package

http://www.alphaweb.org/docs/lib_011530149.pdf

**BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION
Annual Report 2008 – 2009
June 15, 2009**

It is my privilege and pleasure to report on the activities of the Board of Health Section.

The Board of Health Section Executive members during the 2008-2009 year were:

- Brian Hughes Chair (North East Region)
- Helen Mulligan Vice Chair (Brant – Central West Region)
- Valerie Sterling, Past Chair (Toronto)
- Vance Blackmore (Middlesex-London – South West Region)
- Maria Harding (Thunder Bay – North West Region)
- Mary Johnson (Eastern Ontario Region)
- Colleen Jordan (Durham – Central East Region)

Public Health in Ontario was eventful with the establishment of the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Agency under the guidance of President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Vivek Goel; the introduction of a new Minister of Health and Long Term Care; an outbreak of listeriosis at a Maple Leafs Food facility in Toronto; an international outbreak of H1N1 which resulted in several cases in the province; the launch of the final version of the Ontario Public Health Standards; the appointment of a new Chief Medical Officer of Health;

The Board of Health Section Executive Committee met five times to discuss policy directions, public health issues and plan general meetings/conferences. These meetings motivated the following activities:

- Support for the creation of an alPHA terms of reference;
- The undertaking of a fuller, more in-depth survey of 2008 health unit budgets;
- Support, in principle, for Bill 117, a private members bill a private member's bill to amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit child passengers under the age of 14 on motorcycles;
- Attendance at a Public Health Ethics Symposium and participated in scenarios with varying ethical considerations;

The Executive members also steered two Board of Health Section general meetings in June 2008 and February 2009 which included presentations from Monika Turner, Director, Public Health Standards Branch, MOHLTC on the framework for public health performance management and also Allison Stuart, Acting Associate Deputy Minister, Public Health, MOHLTC who elaborated on several topics including the budget and public health funding and recruitment for MOHs. In the past year executive members also attended a strategic planning session in February and five alPHA Board of Directors meetings. In addition, the Chair also participated in seven alPHA Board of Directors Executive meetings.

In the near future, in addition to discussing and advocating for issues of mutual concern, the Board of Health Section Executive Committee together with alPHA staff plans to:

- Explore the potential for alPHA involvement in physician recruitment fairs and maintain focus on retention of public health professional;
- Support the *Put Food in the Budget* campaign to add a \$100 nutritious food supplement to social assistance;

- Continue to monitor and assess the impact of the economic downturn and the rising levels of poverty;
- Heighten Profile of Public Health's role and function among the public;
- Improve communications among boards of health in Ontario and outline alPHA's role in facilitating this communication;
- Advocate for funding:
 - board of health budgets (including impacts on health units' capacity to deliver the Ontario Public Health Standards, small drinking water systems, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, etc.)
 - funding for unorganized territories
 - per capita funding and the question of equity.

I would like to extend special thanks to my colleagues on the Board of Health Section Executive Committee and the Section members for their commitment in ensuring that we continue to work towards maintaining effective and efficient public health services to meet the needs of the population of Ontario; as well as, responding to the changing landscape of public health. In addition, on behalf of the Executive Committee members, I would like to express my deep appreciation to alPHA staff for their ongoing support and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Hughes
Chair, Board of Health Section

COMOH Annual Report 2008/09

This has been a year of growth for both COMOH and public health in general in Ontario, despite a backdrop of the worldwide failing economy. Also, in the midst of the spread of a novel H1N1 Influenza A virus, the measures put in place under Operation Health Protection, including the creation of the new Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, have ably supported Ontario's public health response. This public health growth and response in such challenging times speaks to the strength and resiliency of Ontario's public health professionals including COMOH's membership.

The COMOH Executive reviewed and endorsed continuing to address the priorities established for COMOH in 2007/08:

- Responding well to urgent and emerging health issues;
- Pursuing public health physician renewal; and
- Participating in public health system renewal.

1. Responding well to urgent and emerging health issues

1.1. Childhood Obesity Surveillance Proposal

This initiative commenced during the term of the 2007/08 COMOH Executive. In May 2008, COMOH sent the "Childhood Obesity Surveillance Proposal" to the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) for its consideration in the context of the provincial childhood obesity initiative. A working group comprised of a mix of public health professionals from across the province developed the Proposal. The Proposal included a comprehensive inventory of national, provincial and local efforts in both surveillance and screening and a set of 13 recommendations for the MHP's consideration.

Meetings were held with representatives from the MHP to discuss this proposal and the means to move it forward. Subsequent to those meetings, Linda Stewart drafted the "Developing the Tools for Childhood Obesity Surveillance" proposal for the MHP's consideration for support, including funding support. The MHP approved the proposal and a project steering committee was assembled and a consultant was hired to support the project. Additional funding was flowed to alPHa to conduct a focus group of Public Health Units, which have already conducted this type of surveillance, so that they have an opportunity to inform the project.

1.2. HPV Vaccine Program Expansion

COMOH endorsed the recommendations contained in the September 4, 2008 Report from the Toronto Public Health Medical Officer of Health, ***Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Program***.

1.3. Raw Milk Writing Group

Several members of COMOH worked with staff from a number of health units and agencies to develop resources regarding the hazards of drinking raw milk, ethical considerations, issues in other jurisdictions and other related matters. Some backgrounders, op-ed pieces and fact sheets were developed. These resources were shared with all Ontario health units

1.4. Panorama Information System

In February a staff report to the Toronto Board of Health made a recommendation about ensuring that immunization coverage records are included in the Panorama platform as it replaces IRIS.

This recommendation was made following concerns about inability of health providers to access the system directly, as well as the inability of the Panorama system to read vaccine bar codes. COMOHO proposed Terms of Reference for a Panorama Immunization Registry and Implementation Working Group, which is intended to facilitate COMOHO advocacy for these elements before the new system is rolled out.

Given the urgency and the day-to-day demands on COMOHO members, it was agreed that representatives to the working group would be entrusted to make recommendations on the Council's behalf. Several COMOHO members volunteered to join the working group and Michael Finkelstein agreed to be the lead.

1.5. Primary Care Pandemic Paper Update

Barbara Yaffe represents alpha on the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) Steering Committee (co-chaired by Dr. Susan Tamblyn and Allison Stuart) that meets 3 – 4 times per year. Recent discussions at that level have included vaccine stockpiling, testing of emergency response information cycle, further discussions about treatment and assessment centres, and rapid access to antivirals.

Megan Ward co-chairs a group with Dr. Brian Schwartz that is examining options to efficiently move antivirals through from holding to distribution. A modeling workshop was held in January to ensure clarity on who does what and how. An updated version of the Canadian Antiviral Annex is expected in June.

The Primary Care Working Group (PCWG) has been reconvened, and will provide an opportunity to revisit and formally submit the COMOHO discussion paper. The COMOHO working group that developed the discussion paper (R. Schabas, I. Levy, A. Carter, M. Ward, B. Yaffe) will be reconvened to revise and formally submit it. L. Noseworthy offered to participate as COMOHO Chair.

The COMOHO working group will also itemize and clarify public health roles in the municipal response structure (communication, surveillance, coordination). The final paper will be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Chair of the OHPIP Steering Committee.

1.6 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children

COMOHO is concerned about the ongoing insufficiency in provincial funding of the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) Program and the resulting decline in provision of its services by local boards of health. The recently released alpha HBHC survey report will be very helpful for advocacy efforts about funding and other issues. Representatives of alpha and COMOHO met with Dr. Charles Pascal regarding the report he is developing for the Premier about the Early Years, and the importance of HBHC. Finally, a small COMOHO working group will be convened to further research HBHC funding and related issues.

1.7. Tobacco Control Strategy

Denis Gertler, Director (A), Smoke-Free-Ontario, MHP, attended our March 27th COMOHO teleconference in follow-up to recent discussions and correspondence related to "New Directions in Tobacco Control". He indicated that a Tobacco Strategy Advisory Group will be convened in April, which although small will include Medical Officer of Health (and possibly senior public health

management) representation. He agreed to make a formal written request to alPHa and COMOH outlining the extent and nature of desired participation.

He also provided the following brief updates:

- John Garcia and Paul MacDonald are coordinating a cessation strategy action plan, which is to include draft priorities for review by an eventual working group.
- Toronto Public Health and the Lung Association are coordinating a meeting that will address questions about the ongoing role of youth (e.g. Youth Action Alliances)
- The Smoking and Health Action Foundation (SHAF) Multi Unit Dwelling (MUD) initiative, which will conduct a feasibility study for a Web-based tool / registry that will provide high-level support to tenants, landlords and condo owners concerned about second hand smoke in multi-unit dwellings.
- Working on technical assistance to Long Term Care Facilities for transitioning to smoke free.

He agreed to look into concerns about tobacco policy and First Nations Communities and the emerging issue of electronic cigarettes, referring to plans to set up a policy and issues group to track emerging issues and to start to prioritize action.

1.8 Novel H1N1 Influenza A Virus Outbreak

COMOH had a special teleconference in mid-May to discuss the public health response to the novel H1N1 Influenza A virus outbreak and to prepare some key messages for the May 21st discussion with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion.

1.9 Other

- 1.9.1 At our February face-to-face meeting, Irwin Elman, the new Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth was invited to provide an overview of the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.
- 1.9.2 COMOH is researching a resolution regarding “Supervised Injection (Consumption) Sites;
- 1.9.3 COMOH is investigating a number of topics for continuing education including: British Columbia’s recent Health Inequities Report; and Prostate Cancer and screening issues.

2. Pursuing public health physician renewal

2.1 Retreat

A professional development event, entitled “High Performance Teams Need Inspirational Leaders” in cooperation with the Canadian Medical Association and the Physician Manager Institute, was held for Medical Officers of Health, Associate Medical Officers of Health and Community Medicine Residents over a three-day period in early October (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Faculty members leading the retreat were Mary Yates, Director, Organization and HR Development, York Central Hospital and Jim Beaubien, President, Hope Learning Systems Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta.

We had 50 registrants, including 13 Community Medicine Residents (CMRs). The Retreat provided a unique opportunity for CMRs to participate fully with the A/MOHs as we discussed leadership issues within a public health context. We are grateful to the Public Health Division for its financial support, which permitted the attendance of CMRs from all Ontario Community Medicine Residency Programs. Megan Ward was instrumental in organizing the Retreat and was ably supported by alPHa staff, particularly Linda Stewart. COMOH is exploring the possibility of having another Retreat at the end of 2009

2.2 COMOH Terms of Reference

COMOH Terms of Reference were amended and will be taken to our June meeting for approval. The amendments include enhancing the benefits of COMOH membership for our Affiliate members (Community Medicine Residents, federal public health physicians working in Ontario's First Nations communities, other public health or related physicians, including those employed by a Board of Health that is not a member of ALPHA and Program Directors of Community Medicine Residency Programs) and supporting placements of Community Medicine Residents at ALPHA.

3. **Participating in public health system renewal**

3.1 Meetings with the Deputy Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

During the Fall Public Health Summit, the COMOH Executive had an opportunity to meet with the Deputy Minister (DM) of Health and Long-Term Care. At that time, the DM advised the COMOH Executive about the decision to divide the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) roles. On the morning of November 27th, in light of the decision and in preparation for a second meeting with the DM, COMOH had a facilitated discussion in order to develop advice for the DM regarding: the future roles of the CMOH and ADM; as well as how the A/MOHs could work with these positions to strengthen the public health system in Ontario.

3.2. COMOH – Provincial Engagement

Drs. David Williams, CMOH (A), Françoise Bouchard, Associate CMOH for the Ministry of Health Promotion, and Vivek Goel, President and CEO of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, were invited to attend sections of COMOH meetings over the course of the year.

On April 1st the COMOH Executive met with members of the Senior Management Committee of the Public Health Division and Senior Management Team of the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP). Following a successful morning meeting, it was agreed that regular semi-annual meetings should be held, in a similar format.

3.3 Dr. Sheela Basrur – A Celebration of Excellence

On October 17th, many of our COMOH colleagues joined Sheela's family and friends in Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto, for the public celebration of her life and her many accomplishments. Penny Sutcliffe, MOH for the Sudbury & District Health Unit, representing Ontario's A/MOHs, shared her thoughts in celebration of Sheela's life. Penny's presentation is posted on ALPHA's website.

3.4 Meeting with Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

On Thursday afternoon, November 27th, COMOH met with Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and Phil Jackson, Vice President of Strategy and External Relations, to provide feedback regarding the Agency's "Strategic Planning Framework and Start Up Operational Plan" as well as discuss matters of mutual concern, including issues related to fluoridation of drinking water. COMOH is looking forward to working closely with the new Agency. Dr. Goel is regularly invited to COMOH meetings and is scheduled to make a presentation at our annual meeting in June.

3.5. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

Dr. Michael Gardam, Director, Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, spoke with the COMOHE Executive, during its recent teleconference meeting, regarding the Agency's strategic planning process and his new role, which includes developing an overall infection control strategy for the province (goals, objectives, priorities and targets).

In closing, I would like to thank COMOHE members for their support by volunteering to sit on committees, reviewing/preparing documents and reports, and participating in other initiatives. Finally, I am most appreciative of the exceptional and ongoing assistance provided by Linda Stewart and Gord Fleming over an extremely busy 2008/09 term.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Lynn Noseworthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

A. Lynn Noseworthy,
COMOHE Chair, 2008/09

Port Hope, May 26, 2009

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION OF alPHa
Annual Report 2008-2009
June 15, 2009

Members representing Affiliates on alPHa's Board of Directors for 2008-09 were:

ANDSOOHA (Public Health Nursing Management): Susan Kniahnicki (Algoma)
AOPHBA (Business Administrators): Dale Jackson (Hastings Prince Edward)
APHEO (Public Health Epidemiologists): Anne-Marie Holt (Haliburton Kawartha)
ASPHIO (Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors): Ken Gorman (Durham)
OAPHD (Public Health Dentistry): Dr. Joyce Sinton (Brant) *
HPO (Health Promotion Ontario): Theresa Schumilas (Waterloo) *
HPO (Health Promotion Ontario): Ellen Wodchis (Niagara) **
OSNPPH (Nutrition Professionals in Public Health): Tracy Allan-Koester (Perth)

* resigned mid-term

** mid-term replacement

The following is a short summary of key activities in 2007-08 for each Affiliate group.

ANDSOOHA

ANDSOOHA's annual general meeting and conference were held October 7 & 8, 2008 in Toronto. The executive was pleased to have Phil Jackson, Monika Turner, Vanessa Burkoski and Dr. David Williams attend to address the membership. Back again for a second year, Gerry Smith from Warren-Shepell discussed Intergenerational Workplace Conflict. He provided managers with upstream approaches to resolve and prevent interpersonal, intergenerational and interdisciplinary workplace conflict.

With funding from HealthForceOntario, an orientation program for public health nurses has been developed. The toolkit has been printed and distributed in January 2009 to the senior nurse leaders in each of the 36 health units. A subsequent survey of the senior nurse leaders indicates that implementation of the toolkit was being discussed or already underway in the majority of health units. Abstracts have been accepted to present the toolkit at several conferences and a workshop on the toolkit will be facilitated at the OPHA conference in November 2009.

The ANDSOOHA executive represents the membership on the alPHa Board and Advocacy Committee, the Joint Provincial Nursing Committee, the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, and the OCCHA Board. As well ANDSOOHA sits on the OPHA board as a constituent society representative.

AOPHBA

Over the past year, the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators has provided representation to the Public Health Division's Financial Accountability Working Group (FAWG) on financial matters, the OCCHA Board of Directors, and alpha's Advocacy Committee. AOPHBA is also represented on the provincial Performance Management Working Group as it now addresses the issue of accountability in public health.

The AOPHBA was invited by OPHA to provide a representative to the consensus meetings for the Public Health Core Competencies Performance Management Project. The Association is grateful to OPHA as AOPHBA is not a Constituent Society of OPHA.

The 2008 Annual AOPHBA Conference was hosted by Haldimand-Norfolk in Simcoe, Ontario, 21 through 24 September with a record high registration of over 45 members. We look forward to the 2009 Annual Conference in Cobourg from 20 to 23 September 2009 which will be hosted by Haliburton Karwartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

APHEO

The Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) is an organization of over 170 members and affiliates devoted to advancing and promoting the discipline and professional practice of epidemiology in Ontario public health units since 1991.

The 2008-09 year for APHEO has been one of broadening our reach and expanding our horizons. Many of APHEO's activities and accomplishments over the past year have led us to collaboration at the national and international level. The Epi data project, in collaboration with PHAC and the Denmark EpiData Association, the expansion and updating of the Core Indicators for Public Health in Ontario and the joint conference between APHEO and the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics are some of the activities that highlight APHEO's reach over the past year. APHEO also looked to the future as we finalized our 2009-11 Strategic Plan.

For more information on APHEO activities, visit www.apheo.ca

ASPHIO

ASPHIO recently held our Spring Meeting on May 25, 26 in Alliston. ASPHIO in consultation with COMOH continues to advocate for mandatory food handler certification for high and moderate risk food establishments. This requires changes to the HPPA and/or Ontario Food Premises Regulation. ASPHIO also participated on the expert review panel/committee regarding the Listeriosis outbreak and reviewing several MOUs and guidelines related to multi-jurisdictional food borne illness outbreaks and recalls.

In addition, other projects ASPHIO is leading is a review of the public health inspector practica and certification process. Dr. Tim Sly has been contracted to complete this review on our behalf and a final draft is expected in early June 2009. ASPHIO is currently reviewing our constitution and updating processes for the ASPHIO Community on the e-portal as a means of improving communications and dialogue amongst our members.

The implementation of the Small Drinking Water Systems program continues to be a challenge and despite concerns regarding funding and tools we have been advised that the MOHLTC -

Risk Categorization and Assessment Tool (RCAT) will be functional and inspections, assessments and issuing of directives will begin in mid to late June.

HPO

HPO is an organization with a membership of approximately 170 members, with representation from public health units, community health centres and provincial health promotion resource centres. Diversity in our membership is strength and an opportunity, and we welcome the perspectives and ideas of all members. During the last several years, HPO has focused on increasing its membership and we have been successful in doing this. Note HPO's website is <http://hpo.squarespace.com>.

Activities:

Health Promotion Competencies:

HPO continues to work with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) on developmental work regarding discipline-specific competencies for Health Promoters.

Strategic Plan Working Group:

This working group was formed in May 2008. The executive committee approved a budget of up to \$2,000 for this group to engage the services of a writer to continue to develop a brief "position" or discussion paper. This initiative is still in its formative stages, but we hope to be able to publish a paper similar in format and substance to our "Fulfilling the Promise" paper of 2005. Potential audiences for this submission include the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, The Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ontario Agency for Health Promotion and Protection and other provincial organizations.

Diversity and Health Promotion:

HPO 22nd Annual Conference – May 27, 2009 in Brampton

Keynote speakers for the conference included:

- “Challenges and Opportunities of Health Promotion – A South Asian Perspective” – Baldev Mutta, Executive Director, Punjabi Community Health Services
- “Working with Priority Populations” – Nancy Dubois, Health Communication Unit
- Presentation of the second annual Lori Chow Memorial Award for Excellence in Health Promotion – Shawn Fendley of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit was the winner.

OAPHD

No report available.

OSNPPH

The Ontario Society for Nutrition Professionals in Public Health continued to enjoy record membership levels with 176 members. For the first time in several years, the Executive Committee has a full slate of volunteer officers for the up-coming year.

Several activities were undertaken this past year to better meet the needs expressed by members at the January 2008 Restructuring Meeting. A new OSNPPH website was launched in March 2009 to improve discussion opportunities among members, facilitate better access to resources as well as streamline the work of the Executive and various workgroups. Another outcome of the restructuring needs identified in 2008 was the creation of an Advocacy Committee. This new

committee is structured to provide strategic guidance to the membership and workgroups to ensure key messages are translated into advocacy activities.

OSNPPH continued its efforts to influence decision makers at all levels to ensure nutrition was incorporated into regulatory decisions. Some highlights included:

- meeting with the Senior Policy Advisor of MEDU with partners to discuss the Trans Fat Regulation
- provision of input to the Child and Youth Health and Wellness (After School) Strategy as a member of the Deputy Minister's Advisory Committee for the HEAL Strategy
- advocacy with Health Canada to encourage reconsideration of the Proposed Policy on Discretionary Fortification of Foods with Vitamins and Minerals-in partnership with OPHA and Dietitians of Canada
- collaboration with OPHA to meet with the Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services to provide recommendations for revisions to the Day Nursery Act
- support of Bill 156
- collaboration with OPHA to support the implementation of the \$100 per month food supplement
- participation on the Ontario Collaborative Group on Healthy Eating and Physical Activity and its advocacy sub-committee.

Last month, approximately 85 members attended the 2009 Annual Nutrition Exchange, "Public Health Nutrition: Peeling Back the Layers" held in Toronto. Child Nutrition and food security were the focus of discussion in addition to the scientific updates.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Allan-Koester, MHS, RD
OSNPPH Representative, alPHa Board of Directors
Affiliate Representative, alPHa Executive Committee

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2008-2009
June 15, 2009

Members of the 2008-2009 alPHa Advocacy Committee and their representation were as follows:

- **Lila Cyr** (Algoma), Board of Health Section
- **Anne Marie Holt** (Haliburton, Kawartha), Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario
- **Scott Elder** (Hastings-Prince Edward), Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators
- **Ken Gorman** (Durham), Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
- **Colleen Jordan** (Durham), Board of Health Section
- **Jo Ann Tober** (Brant), ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing Management
- **Carolyn Kuntz** (Elgin-St. Thomas), Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
- **Dr. Rosana Pellizzari** (Perth), Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
- **Dr. Joyce Sinton** (Brant), Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry
- **Linda Stewart** (alPHa), Chair
- **Dr. Monir Taha** (Halton), Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health

Advocacy Committee Update

The Committee is supported by alPHa's Manager of Public Health Issues (Gordon Fleming), and Manager, Administrative and Association Services (Susan Lee / Tannisha Lambert).

During a busy 2008/2009 year, alPHa's Advocacy Committee met three times by teleconference. The Committee prioritized the October 2008 resolutions, monitored and provided input on the actions taken on them, recommended a number of resolutions for closure to the alPHa Board and reviewed the resolutions that were submitted for consideration at the June 2009 annual conference.

Building on the ongoing review of the Committee's role and purpose within the Association, Committee members also examined its Terms of Reference, with revisions to be finalized in June 2009, and took part in a survey that was designed to evaluate the roles and responsibilities of members, as well as the effectiveness of the Committee itself.

At its December 2008 meeting, the Committee discussed opportunities for collaboration with the Ontario Public Health Association's Advocacy Committee, particularly on issues of mutual interest and agreement.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for volunteering their energy and expertise on the various issues that have been presented for strategic discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Stewart, Chair

A05 – 11, Stormwater Management Ponds

*Operative Clause: **THAT** that the Ministry's Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual (2003) be revised to include reduction of mosquito breeding opportunities alongside protection of watercourses, water quality and aquatic diversity.*

Reason for closure: The Ministry of the Environment has released Best Practices for Reducing the Risk of West Nile Virus in Stormwater Management Ponds manual, which is now available on the Ministry of the Environment Web site.

A04-5, Continual Revision of General and Program Standards

*Operative Clause: **THAT** the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urge the Government of Ontario to establish an inclusive, rapid process for continually reviewing, revising, approving and modernizing the general and program standards of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines; **AND FURTHER** rapidly finalize the revision of the Control of Infectious Diseases and Infection Control program standards.*

Reason for closure: Ontario Public Health Standards released. In place of the former General Standards, there is a Foundational Standard, which requires Boards of Health to continuously monitor health status and adapt local services in a system of continuous quality improvement. The standards themselves are more flexible and tied to a framework of current best practices. alPHa's advocacy committee determined that this satisfies the operative clause of A04-5

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Strategic Plan – June 2009 UPDATE

Introduction

This document provides an update to the strategic plan for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) developed by its Board of Directors in February 2007. We are now at the half-way mark in this two-year plan and excellent progress has been made on the organization's strategic goals.

The Association

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a non-profit organization that provides leadership to boards of health and public health units in Ontario. Our members include board of health members of health units, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers. alPHa advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province.

Mission Statement

alPHa, through a strong and unified voice, advocates for public health policies, programs and services on behalf of member health units in Ontario.

Long-Term Objectives

- To assist local public health units in providing efficient and effective services that meet the needs of the people of Ontario.
- To assist in establishing, through collaboration with other organizations, a unified and powerful voice for public health in Ontario which is consulted and respected.

Corporate Tag Line

"Providing leadership in public health management"

Strategic Goals

1. Build the leadership capacity of senior leaders in public health
2. Improve member engagement with the Association
3. Strengthening strategic partnerships
4. Leverage new and existing relationships
5. Improve Association response time to emerging issues

Action Plan

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2009 Bold Items are new for 2009 update
1. Build the leadership capacity of senior leaders in public health	<p>Effective leadership through a period of change for the public health system</p> <p>Excellence in board and management performance</p> <p>Maximize credibility of public health leaders</p>	<p>Facilitate professional development in the areas of leadership, communication, governance, management, and specific issues (e.g., emergency preparedness)</p> <p>Pursue on-going funding for alpha to coordinate professional development for BOHs, MOHs and senior managers</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working more closely with COMOH's MainCert Committee and BOH Executive to facilitate professional development opportunities. • BOH Section meetings now include speakers on key topics. • Submitted professional development to MOHLTC. Resulted in two grants in 2007-08 to cover expenses for speakers and community medicine residents at two alpha events. • A \$50,000 grant was provided from MOHLTC for professional development in 2008-09. • alpha events were accredited for a total of 49 continuing medical education (CME) credits in 2008-09. • A \$55,000 Grant is committed from MOHTLC for professional development in 2009-10.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2009 Bold Items are new for 2009 update
2. Improve member engagement with the Association	<p>Expand 2-way communication with all members</p> <p>Strengthen the impact of association for all members</p> <p>Ensure aPHa conferences/meetings include content for affiliates</p> <p>Increase the visibility of health units and their professional staff</p> <p>Be better positioned to support and to react quickly to advocacy efforts</p>	<p>Establish regular communication with affiliate presidents</p> <p>Create listserves for affiliate groups</p> <p>Establish Conference Planning Committee</p> <p>Develop opportunities for Association members</p> <p>Know key issues for each affiliate group</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have coordinated meetings of Affiliates at June 07 Conference (Windsor) and December 07 Fall Workshop (Toronto) with Ministry representative to discuss current issues. • Have added an Affiliates Report at the Annual Business Meeting. • Have created opportunities for health unit staff to showcase their expertise in the area of pandemic planning. • Worked closely with ASPHIO and environmental health directors to complete an IT Needs Assessment for environmental health inspection. Resulted in \$2 million purchase of new hardware and software for environmental health departments in public health units in 2007-08. • In 2008-09 worked with ASPHIO to obtain funding to conduct a review and evaluation of the student public health inspector practicum program offered in Ontario by local public health units. • Supported PHUs through the transfer of RRFSS (Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System) program responsibility to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2009 Bold Items are new for 2009 update
3. Strengthening strategic partnerships	<p>Build a higher profile for public health and the Association</p> <p>Build momentum for public health renewal</p> <p>Co-ordinate with partners to clarify advocacy roles and identify available tools</p> <p>Engage in effective government relations and advocacy</p> <p>Effective use of scarce resources and reacting to issues quickly</p>	<p>Build a public health coalition of associations</p> <p>Expand Public Health Renewal Committee to include partners</p> <p>Develop strategic partnerships outside of public health e.g. LHINs</p>	<p>2008-09</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with OPHA to develop public health issue materials for all candidates (before October 2007 election) and MPPs (after election). • Through involvement with Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and Ontario Health Providers Alliance, relationships are being developed with LHIN representatives. • With OPHA, working to develop educational materials for LHINs about public health. • Initial discussions with FHTs to facilitate partnerships with public health. • Initial discussions with Chiefs of Ontario to discuss aboriginal public health issues. • aPHa/OPHA Social Determinants of Health Working Group has been established. • Chaired the Ontario Health Providers Alliance for 2008-09 • Co-Chaired the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance for 2007-08 and 2008-09. • Participated on Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion committees to plan Sheela Basrur Centre events and to develop the governance structure for the Sheela Basrur Centre.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2009 Bold Items are new for 2009 update
4. Leverage new and existing relationships	<p>Build a higher profile for the Association</p> <p>More effective use of the political capital of BOH members and MOHs</p> <p>Engage in effective government relations and advocacy</p>	<p>Develop an all-candidate election primer on public health and key public health issues</p> <p>Build on and leverage relationships between BOHs and MPPs</p> <p>Build on and leverage the relationships between the alPHA Board and provincial ministers/ opposition critics</p> <p>Strengthen relationships with Province (i.e., Chief Medical Officer of Health, and staff of Public Health Division and Ministry of Health Promotion)</p> <p>Focus Advocacy Committee efforts and expand strategies beyond writing letters</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2008-09</p> <p>2008-09</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2007-08</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed public health issue materials for all candidates (before October 2007 election) and MPPs (after election). • Ensured correspondence was copied to MPPs on key issues of general interest, e.g., poverty reduction • Executive Director has regular meetings with CMOH and ADM. • COMOH Chair is developing a strategy with CMOH to improve communication between MOHs and CMOH. • ADM is established as a regular speaker on BOH Section meeting agendas. • Board and Advocacy Committee have begun discussions about the structure and role of the Advocacy Committee. • Partnered with COMOH, Ministry of Health Promotion and Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to secure funding to develop a protocol for healthy weights surveillance.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Strategy	Timeline	Status – June 2009 Bold Items are new for 2009 update
5. Improve response time to emerging issues	<p>Timely responses to emerging issues manner</p> <p>Have position statements ready</p> <p>Focus aPHa staff work on Association priorities</p>	<p>Empower the aPHa Executive Committee to respond to urgent issues quickly</p> <p>Use forward-thinking strategies</p> <p>Develop an in-house policy analysis function</p> <p>Improve aPHa's resolutions database</p>	<p>2007-08</p> <p>2007-08</p> <p>2008-09</p> <p>2008-09</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aPHa's Public Health Issues Manager has completed the Maytree Foundation's Policy Program – October 2007 to May 2008. • A part-time Communications Coordinator was added to aPHa staff, May 2008. • Have started system to track local BOH resolutions to identify current areas of interest in the field.