

# OCDPA e-bulletin

Greetings for the New Year! We hope 2007 is treating you well and that you are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance.

The OCDPA website has a new home on the World Wide Web! All OCDPA-related information can now be found on our new website which we are very happy to present to you all. This new website will replace the old location for accessing OCDPA information which was previously hosted on the OPHA website. The OCDPA website can be found at the following address:

[www.ocdpa.on.ca](http://www.ocdpa.on.ca)

## Passing the Baton

In the race to prevent chronic diseases, I'm thrilled to be passing the baton to two wonderfully able colleagues. After two years as chair, my term is up, and Connie Uetrecht and Linda Stewart are your new co-chairs.

My time as chair has been filled with learning, opportunities and growth shared with excellent staff and colleagues. During the past two years, commitment to the Alliance has grown, as has the Alliance's credibility. We've proposed a model for a chronic disease prevention system that will further the Provincial health promotion strategic framework and chronic disease prevention and management framework and is resonating well with others interested in chronic disease prevention. We've released key informative research and analysis papers, developed a provisional strategic plan, refined our governance mechanisms, expanded membership and enhanced partnerships.

Beyond our own membership activities, the Alliance has formal participation with the Ministry of Health Promotion's Health Eating and Active Living Advisory Committee, the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, the Pan-Canadian Healthy Living Strategy, the

Cancer Prevention Council, the Health Promotion Committee of the Ontario Stroke Strategy, Marginalized Women, Inclusion and Stroke Provincial Working Group, the Ontario Heart Health Network and we are still engaged with the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada's Provincial/Territorial Alliance Network.

The task ahead of us now is to set action priorities and move into outward and results-oriented activity suitable for an alliance coming of age. Connie U. and Linda, our co-chairs, and Gary O'Connor, our new vice-chair, are a great team to help the Alliance enter this next stage. Connie, executive director of the Ontario Public Health Association brings a strong background in public health and nutrition. Linda, executive director of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, brings experience in advocating for public health policies, programs and services for public health units. Gary, executive director of Ontario at the Canadian Diabetes Association, is also a former director of the Association of Ontario Health Centres. What leadership!

Thank you for all your contribution to a wonderful and challenging two years. I have gained a great deal from the honour of having been your Alliance chair.

**Connie Clement**, Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse

## Setting Priorities

At our full membership Alliance meeting on January 16, 2007, we had the pleasure of having Nancy Dubois of DuBFit lead members through some important business –priority setting for the Alliance. Nancy led the group through an exercise whereby they discussed proposed actions for the Alliance and in turn 'voted' on the approximately 25 potential priorities that were generated by the tobacco and healthy eating and active living thinktanks and our consultants. The priorities that were identified will now be reviewed and assessed. The 'System Steering Committee' will put forward 2 - 4 priorities to the full-member

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organizations for their approval in February. The selected priorities will be used to deepen the provisional strategic plan and guide activities in the coming year or two.

## **Updates on Projects**

### Social Determinants of Health Resource

A three-way partnership between the Alliance, OPC and CCS was established to produce a resource focused on the social determinants of health. An advisory board was struck to shape the scope of the toolkit and review its progress. A consultant has been contracted to write the content and is underway with the resource's development. We look forward to sharing this resource with you soon.

### Economic Burden Report

The Alliance and CAMH are working together to compile a report on the economic cost of chronic disease in Canada. The report has been sent to experts in the field for review and also to Alliance core members for feedback. When the report is complete it will be posted on our new website for member access.

### Database and OCDPA Website

The Chronic Disease Prevention Initiatives Directory and the newly created OCDPA website are up and running. The directory is a searchable tool for those looking for information on chronic disease prevention initiatives in Ontario. The directory has been populated with a wide variety of chronic disease prevention initiatives from the public health sector and will continue to be populated with new initiatives at regularly scheduled intervals. The directory is a wonderful mechanism for information sharing between organizations, identifying opportunities for collaboration and for gathering information for program planning. Many thanks to the database advisory committee and to the communications working group for helping to make the cdp initiatives directory and the website a success.

The new OCDPA website is home to the chronic disease prevention initiatives directory, published Alliance reports, and will have up-to-date communication regarding Alliance activities. Please share the link!

### Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity

In October 2006, the Alliance was invited to sit on the planning committee for the forth annual Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity forum that will take place on March 22, 2007. Maria Grant will attend the meetings on behalf of the Alliance.

## **Membership**

Our full membership has grown with the addition of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa). aLPHa was previously an affiliate member of the Alliance.

## **Staff Updates**

Ann-Marie Kungl, our research and policy analyst for the Alliance made a tough decision to leave her position. Ann-Marie is now working with the North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN in Orillia. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### Full Membership Meeting

April 17, 2007

1-4pm

Location TBD

## **Contact Us**

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