

A Note from the Chair

I'm very excited about the work that is reported in this electronic bulletin. The model for a prevention system proposed by the Alliance is resonating with colleagues in the field. We're very pleased at the potential to engage with the Ontario Government and help ensure successes in relation to the Healthy Eating and Active Living action plan of the Ministry of Health Promotion. I hope you enjoy the updates.

Two affiliate members of the Alliance have become full members: Congratulations and thanks to the Kidney Foundation of Canada (Ontario) and the Arthritis Society (Ontario Division) for helping to shape the Alliance through additional commitments.

Norman Giesbrecht has stepped down from the vice-chair position to create way for more members to consider standing for chair when I step down at the beginning of 2007. Thank you, Norman, for being such a great vice chair; it has been a pleasure to work closely with you. (Norman remains an active member.)

Gary O'Connor, Canadian Diabetes Association (Ontario Region) is stepping into the vice-chair role and will be vice chair throughout 2007. I know you'll all join me in welcoming him to the position.

This newsletter is the first opportunity to offer a print-welcome to Maria Grant who started as Alliance manager on June 19th, 2006 and Tamara Khamassuridze who started as the administrative assistant to the Alliance on September 25th, 2006. Maria came to us from the Peel Region Public Health Department and brings a strong background and enthusiasm. She is proving to be a great colleague.

As many of you know, Tracy Howson, former manager, resigned in the spring and is now working for the Durham Region Diabetes Network. Giselle Sicchia, former administrative assistant, left us in August to also work at the Durham Region Diabetes Network. Please join me in wishing both of them all the best in their new endeavors and thanking them for their dedication and hard work.

It is with great sadness that I share with all members the passing of Alan MacFarlane, of the Ontario Lung Association, in the spring of cancer. Alan's commitment and vision for the Alliance propelled us forward in our formative years and he is sorely missed.

I hope to see many of you at our all-member meeting on October 12th (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Sport Alliance of Ontario building located at 1185 Eglinton Ave E).

Connie Clement, Chair

A Note from the Manager

Greetings! I would like to introduce myself – my name is Maria Grant and I am the new manager for the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance. A lot of things have taken place in the couple of months that I have been here at the Alliance. We are working to move the system plan forward into its next phase and we have also been working to complete a database of chronic disease prevention initiatives for the province – just to mention a few!

I am very excited to take on this new role to assist the Alliance in reaching its goals. I would like to thank everyone for all of their kindness and support as I continue to learn and grow with the OCDPA.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new administrative assistant, Tamara Khamassuridze who has recently joined the OCDPA team. Tamara brings a wealth of experience to the Alliance and we are excited to have her. Welcome Tamara!

Maria Grant, Manager

