

CPHA Advisory Council Newsletter



OPENING PITCH

In the *second release* of our Advisory Council Newsletter, we're pleased to highlight a number of new items of interest to those involved in public health throughout the country. The *CPHA website* continues to be a *major resource* for stakeholders and will be referenced several times throughout the Newsletter.

BASES ARE LOADED

The *federal election* afforded an opportunity to discuss health system issues of concern to all Canadians. Not the least of these was public health issues and to this end, CPHA provided an invaluable resource – an *Election Primer*. The accolades that followed its release on the CPHA website reflected its importance and we're pleased to report that this resource is still available at: <http://www.cpha.ca/en/programs/statements/election2008.aspx>. You will find this information of relevance in your continuing interactions with government officials as well as the media and public.

Plans for the *CPHA's 2009 Annual Conference from June 7th to 10th in Winnipeg, Manitoba*, are well underway. With the theme, *Public Health in Canada: Strengthening the Connections*, this is



sure to be a strong contender for the designation "best CPHA conference ever" awarded to Halifax in 2008. For more information about this opportunity, please go to: <http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2009.aspx>.

A great opportunity to nominate one of your public health heroes! In partnership with several national organizations, the CPHA has announced a *Call for Nominations* for the *CPHA National Public Health Hero Award 2009*. This award was created to broaden awareness and understanding of public health by recognizing members of the Canadian public for their significant contributions and exceptional commitment to promoting and protecting the health of

Canadians. The award will be presented at CPHA's upcoming Annual Conference. Please refer to: www.cpha.ca for more information.

GETTING TO HOME PLATE

In recognition of the two-year landmark, CPHA is ***undertaking an evaluation of the Advisory Council (AC)***. A Working Group is meeting and expects to complete its report in the spring of 2009. The objectives of the evaluation encompass several areas, including the identification of challenges and opportunities regarding the AC's ongoing advisory role to the CPHA Board of Directors; determining if the AC is meeting the needs of the CPHA; if, in the course of operationalizing this new structure, other roles for the AC have emerged; and assessing the effectiveness of communication between the Board and the AC.

BUILDING TEAM SPIRIT

One of the benefits of the Advisory Council is the ***opportunity to share*** key strategies to improve public health for the people of Canada. To this end, your AC Co-chairs have been exploring both a ***format and process*** for provincial / territorial public health associations and public health partners on the AC to provide updates.

The AC was recently provided with a ***good example*** of sharing from the ***Alberta Public Health Association (APHA)***. Ms. Maya Charlebois, representing the APHA, advised that the re-organization of the health system in Alberta has afforded public health an opportunity to re-frame how it might look from an organizational perspective in that province. It has become clear in Alberta that there will be only one ministry of health and that public health must configure itself within this framework. Taking these points into account, a Think Tank created a report with 16 recommendations (<http://www.cms.apha.ab.ca/>).

In ***another example*** of sharing, Ms. Yvette Laforet-Fliesser, representing the ***Community Health Nurses Association of Canada*** (www.chnac.ca) on the AC, recently advised that the CHNAC is conducting an environmental scan to identify and respond to critical and emerging issues in community health nursing, organized around five identified "sub-environments". We look forward to reviewing the results.

If you have similar information to share, let us know! Contact your AC Co-chairs – Sue Hicks at suehicks@mts.net or John Maxted at jmaxted@cfpc.ca.

WINNING SCORES

For some of the most *recent releases* from CPHA, please see:

- *A Tool for Strengthening Chronic Disease Prevention and Management:*
<http://www.cpha.ca/en/portals/CD.aspx>
- *Canadian Public Health Association Response to the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission's Report (Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health):*
http://www.cpha.ca/uploads/Advocacy/CPHA_WHO_sdoH_e.pdf