

Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century

October 26, 2004

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer
Public Health Agency of Canada
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Dear David,

On behalf of the Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Canada's inaugural Chief Public Health Officer. Coalition members were delighted by the news and look forward to working with you to strengthen Canada's public health system.

As you are aware, the Coalition is a national network of nearly 40 voluntary organizations, professional associations, and academic and research organizations that are concerned about the future of public health in Canada. We recognize public health as an integral building block of a sustainable health system. We know that investing in public health today, in order to prevent disease and injury, can reduce existing pressures on our acute care health system, thereby helping to keep Canadians healthy while improving their quality of life and reducing their need for treatment services. We are particularly concerned with:

- Long-term, sustainable funding for the Public Health Agency of Canada and for public health infrastructure across the country;
- The need to place special attention on addressing health human resources in public health; and,
- The development of a national public health strategy;

We stand ready to support you in advancing a comprehensive public health strategy, and would welcome an opportunity to dialogue further with you about how best the Coalition could assist your office in this regard. We have, for example, developed a preliminary framework that identifies the key elements that a comprehensive strategy would outline and address. These include:

- Health goals including public health;
- Framework for evidence-based population-level interventions
- Foundation for research, monitoring, surveillance and evaluation;
- Agenda for healthy public policy development.
- Identification of capacity building needs - for example, technical assistance and training to strengthen public health capacity; improving access to available syntheses of the evidence to inform policies, programs and practice.
- General logic model with relevant intermediate indicators and targets for use as a coordination and management tool.
- Delineation of management and organizational structures for coordination and clarification of the roles of stakeholders

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We would be pleased to provide further input as you see fit, and facilitate any multi-stakeholder consultations, as the national public health strategy is further developed under your leadership.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, and to working closely with you and your Agency colleagues to strengthen public health in Canada.

Sincerely,



Maureen Law/S/KH

Elinor Wilson

Maureen Law

Co-Chairs Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century

The Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century is a national network of non-profit organizations, professional associations and academic institutions concerned about the state of public health in Canada.

Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century
Membership (October 13, 2004)

- Association of Canadian Academic HealthCare Organizations
- Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Association for School Health
- Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Chiropractic Association
- Canadian Dental Association
- The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion
- Canadian College of Health Service Executives
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Canadian Healthcare Association
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Institute of Population and Public Health
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Nurses Association
- Canadian Paediatric Society
- Canadian Pharmacists Association
- Canadian Psychological Association
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Canadian Society for International Health
- Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada
- Community & Hospital Infection Control Association Canada
- Dietitians of Canada
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
- Institute of Population Health - University of Ottawa
- National Specialty Society for Community Medicine
- St. John Ambulance
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Physicians for a SmokeFree Canada
- Safe Kids Canada
- The Lung Association
- University of Toronto, Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
- YMCA of Canada
- Regional representatives of public health concerns – Claire Betker, Susan McBroom
- Special Advisors – Maureen Law, Jack Lee, Larry Chambers