



An Historical Overview of the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition December 2000-April 2016

- Member of the Canadian Association for School Health since ~1988 as the Coalition of Ontario Agencies for School Health (COASH)
- December 2000—merger of COASH (about 5 members) with the OPHA Healthy Schools Workgroup (about 8 members) & University of Toronto Centre for Health Promotion School Health Interest Group (about 20 members)—total about 30 members
- November 2007: 210 members, including 38 organizations
- May 2011: 364 members, including 82 organizations
- Nov 2015: 234 members (224 part of organizations plus 10 individual members), 40 organizations Listserv now reaches 786, and 604 follow OHSC on Twitter
- Four teleconferences per year (highest annual average of 69 in attendance from 41 sites across the province in 07/08)
- One face-to-face Annual Forum per year. Last one April 2014 had over 400 in attendance.
- Secretariat: Middlesex-London Health Unit; previously was the Ontario Public Health Association

- **Vision:** Every child and young person in Ontario will have the opportunity to be educated in a ‘healthy school’.
A ‘healthy school’ promotes the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of the whole school community and constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working.

- Experts from numerous fields—education, public health, hospitals, universities, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, substance abuse, violence, injury, parents, students

- Sharing Comprehensive School Health resources
 - CSH / HPS Manuals
 - Making Health Happen: A Toolkit for School Councils
 - Assessment & Planning Tools
 - PowerPoint Presentations

- Sharing topic-specific resources, e.g.
 - OSNPPH “Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment”
 - Region of Waterloo’s “Imagine...A School Without Bullying: A School Climate Approach to Bullying Prevention”
 - HSC “The Student Body: Promoting Health At Any Size”
 - School and Board Manuals for Daily Physical Activity

- Sharing success stories
 - Idea to use Heart Health funding

- Healthy Schools Success Stories
- Ophea “Living School” evaluation

- Sharing activities—compilations → database
 - Members participated in the Ontario School Health Benchmarking Project
 - Inventory of Ontario Healthy School Initiatives (Public Health Units & School Boards)
 - Status of CSH/HPS in Ontario—Compilation (All Organizations)
 - Ontario School Health Initiatives Database (no longer in use)

- Annual Forums:
 - May 1, 02 — Toronto — Strategic Planning Day—Terms of Reference, required subcommittees, Healthy Schools Ontario platform with 9 action areas

 - June 27, 03 — Toronto — Jack Jones-WHO-The Global School Health Initiative; Small group dialogue on frameworks and capacities; Healthy Schools Ontario and Jurisdictional Review

 - June 7, 04 — Toronto — Key Common Elements of Comprehensive Healthy Schools Models & Strategic Planning re regional education sessions for school boards and health units; kit for school councils, principals, stakeholders; evaluation findings; school policies

 - June 10, 05 — Toronto— Achieving Healthy Schools Across Ontario: Priority Areas for Action— examples of successful Ontario initiatives; work towards shared vision; Dr. Andy Anderson and Dr. Martin Shain

 - June 2, 06 — York Region — Systems Approach to Healthy Schools: Pulling It All Together (79 attendees) — 5th Annual Forum
Sandra Dean, Principal, Durham District School Board; Colleen Stanton; Bob Harper and colleagues, York Region District School Board

 - June 1, 07 — Kingston — Partnership and Engagement for Healthy Schools (94 attendees) — 6th Annual Forum
Dr. Bruce Ferguson and Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement Youth Panel — Making our children and youth successful; youth engagement; public health and school board partnerships

 - May 29, 2008 — Toronto — Energizing School Communities for Health (88 attendees) — 7th Annual Forum
Dr. Blake Poland, U of Toronto Dept of Public Health Sciences – The School as a Setting for Health Promotion: New frontiers in understanding and working with the context of practice
Workgroup discussions: Service Delivery Models, Physical Environment, Indicators and Evaluation, Building Capacity

 - May 19, 2009 — Ottawa/Gatineau in conjunction with Canadian Association for School Health Conference “Health, Learning and Social Development: Settings for All” (93 attendees) — 8th Annual Forum
Dr. Vera Etches, AMOH Ottawa Public Health – Social Determinants, Chronic Disease Prevention and Schools

Judith Hoye, Consultant and retired Superintendent – New Directions for Education in Ontario: How can Public Health Support Education with Healthy Schools

- May 6-7, 2010 — London — School Connectedness: Providing a Sense of Belonging—What we can all do together (200+ attendees) — 9th Annual Forum
Dr. Betty Boldt, lead auditor B.C. Ministry of Education and retired Asst Superintendent
Dr. Antony Card, Acting Director, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation, Memorial University of Newfoundland
- May 12-13, 2011 — Sudbury — Resiliency and the School Community — 10th Annual Forum and gala celebration (170 attendees)
Dr. Wayne Hammond, Resiliency Initiatives, Canada
Dr. Gail McVey, Psychologist and Health Systems Research Scientist, HSC
Waneek Horn-Miller, Joseph Boyden, Sgt (Ret'd) Steve Daniel
- April 18-19, 2012 — Hamilton — (305 & 335 attendees respectively) — Mental Wellness—Building Capacity within the School Community — 11th Annual Forum
Michael Reist, Teacher 30 yrs and author of Raising Boys in a New Kind of World
Dr. Sharon Pyke, Superintendent of Education with responsibilities in Special Education with the Greater Essex County District School Board
- April 9-10, 2014 — London — (331 & 404 attendees respectively) — Coming Together: Supporting the Whole Child — 12th Annual Forum
Rona Maynard, former Editor of Chatelaine magazine
Jamie Mandigo, Associate Professor at Brock University
Amanda Stanec on Physical Literacy in Action
Michel Chikwanine, Humanitarian
Dr. Stan Kutcher is an internationally renowned expert on adolescent mental health
- November 16-17, 2015 supported as an organizing partner PHE Canada's 2015 Healthy School Communities National Forum — Ottawa-Gatineau (200+ attendees)
Sean Slade, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, USA
Dr. Jonathan McGavock, University of Manitoba
Dr. William Morrison, University of New Brunswick
- April 13-14, 2016 — Toronto — (120 + attendees) — Achieving Educational Outcomes Through a Healthy School Approach — 15th Anniversary Conference
UNITY - empowers youth to use artistic self-expression to make positive life choices leading to more productive citizens, safer schools and healthier communities.
David Thomas Ekram, Editor-in-Chief of the Pursuit of Happiness newsletter, 30 yrs experience as school administrator and teacher
Michele Chaban, founder and former Director of the Applied Mindfulness Meditation Program at the University of Toronto
- Conference/ Meeting Presentations:
OPHA, CPHA, CHNIG, CHNAC, Ophea, OSCA, OTF & OTIP, alPHa, OSSTF, Ontario MOHLTC Education Day, People for Education, CNA Nursing Leadership Conference, Ontario School Advocate (School Councils); CASH; Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse; The Learning Partnership; Ontario Inclusion Learning Network; Canadian School Health Knowledge

▪ Publications:

Orbit (OISE/UT), RNAO, CN, CAHPERD (2 Special Issues on Health Promoting Schools edited by Andy Anderson), Theses, Literature Review and Discussion Paper re Active Healthy School Community Models From Around the World (Barbara Ronson), Ontario Health Promotion Email Bulletin, Better Health~Better Schools~Better Futures (Andy Anderson); School Health chapter (Laforêt-Fliesser, MacDougall, BucklandFoster) in Community Health Nursing: A Canadian Perspective (2nd and 3rd eds.) textbook by Stamler, L.L. & Yiu, L. (Eds.); Canadian Journal of Public Health School Health Inserts; Canadian Teachers Federation “Health and Learning” magazine; Canadian Case Study (MacDougall, Laforêt-Fliesser) in Case Studies in Global School Health Promotion: From research to practice (2009) by Vince Whitman, C. and Aldinger, C.E.(Eds.); School Health chapter (Laforêt-Fliesser, MacDougall, Macleod) in Community Health Nursing: A Canadian Perspective (4th ed) textbook by Stamler, L.L., Yiu, L. & Mawji, A.

▪ Advocacy Efforts/Contributions:

- [Resolutions at Apr 2000 RNAO AGM; Oct 24, 25, 2000 OPHA & CPHA AGMs; Discussion at Nov 7, 2000 MOHLTC Education Day]
- Jan 26, 2001—Presentation of brief “Comprehensive Approaches to School-Based Health Promotion” to Inter-Ministerial Committee (Health & Education) & FU activities related to their recommendations
- Mar 2, 2001 Submission of brief to Ministry of Education Task Force on Effective Schools
- Apr 27, 2001 Follow-up letter to above brief
- [members provided individual input to MOHLTC Public Health Branch re proposed revisions to MHPSG]
- Dec 5, 01 & Jan 30, 02—Invitation letters to Health and Education reps/critics of 3 political parties to attend OHSC teleconference
- Feb 21, 2002 A Proposal to Advance the Work of the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- March 2002—Healthy Schools Ontario concrete proposal sent to all 3 political parties.
- Sep 18, 2002—Brief and Deputation to Education Equality Task Force—Dr. Mordechai Rozanski
- Oct 2002—Developed & delivered ppt presentation explaining CSH/HPS, vision of OHSC, recommendations for action to leaders in health and education of all 3 political parties; adapted logo from Toronto Public Health, with permission.
- Jan 13, 2003 Background Paper on Health Promoting Schools to MOHLTC—Jurisdictional Review
- Feb 7, 2003 “Healthy Schools Ontario”: A Proposal to Improve Ontario Children’s Health and Learning – Prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Feb 13, 2004 Submission to Ministry of Finance Steering Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs Pre-Budget Consultation re need for focus on prevention & need for Inter-Ministerial support & provincial coordinating centre for Healthy Schools “Healthy Schools Ontario”: A Plan for Sustainable Student Success
- Mar 12, 2004 Roundtable Submission to the Hon. Carolyn Bennett Minister of State (Public Health) re need for Public Health Agency of Canada to include national leadership within the public health sector for School Health in Canada.

- April 21, 2004 Victor Henriques came to OHSC meeting for MPP Peter Fonseca, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, George Smithermann.
- April 22, 2004 Ontario’s Rapid Assessment and Action Planning Process [RAAPP] with Doug McCall
- May 2004—Physical Activity and Public Health: “A Call to Action” [TDSB & TCDSB] seeking province-wide policy on physical education/physical activity
- Feb 8, 2005 Submission to Minister of Finance “Fostering Collaboration and Coordination for Healthy Schools: A Key Role for the Government of Ontario to Improve the Health and Education of Ontario’s Children and Youth”
- April 2005 “Making Health Happen: A Toolkit for School Councils”
- June 2005 “Achieving the Vision of Healthy Schools Across Ontario: Priority Areas for Action” to Premier, MOE, MOHLTC, MHP, MCYS, MTR
- Sept 2006 Letter to MOHLTC to include OHSC in Review of Ontario Public Health Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines
- Jan 2007 Letter of support for CAHPERD Proposal to Public Health Agency of Canada re Active Healthy School Communities Project and Weight of the World Challenge
- February 2007 Submitted Funding Proposal re Heartspeak videoclips re Healthy Schools
- Feb 2007 Funding Proposal to School Health Coordinator, Ministry of Health Promotion—\$10,000 approved
- March 2007 Submitted input re Public Health MHPSG through OPHA
- May-June 2007 Collaborated with Catholic Principals Council of Ontario on Safe and Healthy Schools Symposium for Ministry of Education—suspended
- Members participated in the SHES (School Health Environment Survey) study from 2007-2009 and other SHAPES (School Health Action, Planning and Evaluation System) projects and consultations led by the University of Waterloo
- From 2007, OHSC has been a contributing member to the Ontario Ministry of Education’s Healthy Schools Working Table (HSWT)
- From November 2007, OHSC members were engaged on the Working Group to draft the School Health Guidance Document that supports implementation of the Ontario Public Health Standards that relate to school settings.
- 2008 provided OHSC rep to the Comprehensive School Nutrition Standards Committee (subcommittee of the HSWT)
- May 9, 2008 Advocacy Letter by OHSC, RNAO and CHNIG to the Mental Health Commission of Canada on the need for mental health to be included in the Ontario Public Health Standards
- Dec 2008 Provided input to the Ministry of Education’s Health and Physical Education Curriculum (Gr 1-8, 9-12) Review
- Feb 2009 Provided input to the Ministry of Education’s Social Sciences and Humanities Curriculum Review
- Encouraged organizations to use simplified “Healthy Schools” phrase and endorse the Ministry of Education’s “Foundations for a Healthy School” framework
- In 08/09 joined an effective 3-way partnership with the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (Ophea) and the Ontario Association for the Supervision of Physical and Health Education (OASPHE), and collaborated on the production of the document “Healthy Schools Matter: A Discussion Paper on Making Healthy Schools a Reality in Ontario.”
- Since 08/09 OHSC contracts an Administrative/ Membership Coordinator to assist with membership and listserv maintenance for enhanced communication and knowledge exchange

- Since 08/09 members have represented OHSC on the OPHA Youth Engagement Project, which aims to foster protective factors against illicit drug use through health promoting schools.
 - Mar 14, 2012 Advocacy Letter to Premier McGuinty to Make Ontario the Healthiest Province by investing at least 0.5% of the Ontario budget towards health promotion and chronic disease prevention [endorsing the recommendations of the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance]
 - Sep 25, 2012 Submission to the Healthy Kids Panel on Childhood Obesity
 - Oct 2012 Letter of support to Ophea for their advocacy for an updated Health and Physical Education Curriculum
 - Mar 26, 2013 Letter to Health Canada’s Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund, confirming our partnership with OPHA, and supporting expansion and enhancement of the Provincial Youth Engagement Resource Project
 - May 7, 2013 Deputation to TCDSB Board of Trustees and Director of Education re The Value of TCDSB’s Health and Physical Education Professional Learning Networks
 - May 2013 Letter to PM Harper & Premier K Wynne re Prioritizing Aboriginal Peoples’ Education and Health
 - Aug 14, 2013 OHSC reps met with Ministry of Education reps on the role of public health vis-à-vis Healthy Schools initiatives
 - Sep 2013 provided input to Ophea’s video *Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities: How You Can Make A Difference*
 - Sep 2013 provided input to the Ministry of Education’s consultations on *Building the Next Phase in Ontario's Education Strategy*
 - Sep 2013 shared CHNIG of RNAO’s Position Paper on School Public Health Nursing
 - Sep 2013 became a supporting partner of the Canadian Tire *Active at School* campaign
 - 2012-2014 Provided feedback to Ministry of Education re revised Foundations for a Healthy School
 - Dec 2014 provided OHSC rep to the Ministry of Education’s Physical Activity Advisory Committee
 - 2015 Provided 3 OHSC Foundations for a Healthy School Training Seed Grants
 - June 2015 provided OHSC rep to Ministry of Education’s Prevalent Medical Conditions Committee (ongoing)
 - 2015 Co-Chairs provided feedback to Ophea on the Healthy Schools Certification materials on behalf of OHSC
 - Dec 2015 OHSC became signatory to the ISHN and ASCD “Global School Health Statement on the Integration of Health and Education”
 - April 2016 provided input on behalf of OHSC to CAMH’s “Ontario Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (MHPPEI) Survey”
- International Links:
 - International School Health Network
 - ASCD (formerly Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development)
 - WHO
 - US Education Development Center (EDC)
 - Ukrainian Institute for Social Research
 - European Network of Health Promoting Schools
 - Australian Health Promoting Schools Association

- Breakthroughs:
 - The Education Equality Task Force incorporated the input we and other organizations had provided via September 2002 deputations, into their final report. Recommendation 13 states: “I recommend that the government establish a Cabinet-level advisory council on integrated services for children and families, composed of representatives from the Ministries of Community, Family and Children’s Services, Education, Health and Long-Term Care, Public Safety and Security, and Tourism and Recreation, to meet on a regular basis to align the work and the funding mechanisms of the ministries that serve families, children and youth.”
 - Ministry of Education attended national CASH conferences 2005 & 2006

- Positive Developments/Results:
 - 2003 Ministry of Education included dedicated staff on healthy schools within the Policy Development and Implementation Unit, Policy and Program Branch
 - Dec 2006 Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health Promotion launched “Healthy School Recognition Program,” with key document “Foundations for a Healthy School”
 - Implementation of CSH/HPS initiatives in numerous jurisdictions across province
 - Province-wide change outcomes, e.g. policies re vending machines, daily physical activity, bullying prevention—Ministry of Education supportive of Healthy Schools & Safe Schools
 - Enhanced province-wide capacity (but more to be done)
 - Local data re health and social outcomes
 - April 2007 Draft Ontario Public Health Standards were released. While they do not explicitly mention Comprehensive School Health or youth, they do require health units to use comprehensive health promotion approaches in working with community partners, including school boards and schools.
 - Many public health units, school boards and other organizations have adopted the “Healthy Schools” phrase and are using the “Foundations for a Healthy School” framework
 - Sep 2009 Teacher Clean Air Checklist was completed by OHSC members and widely distributed—very well-received; translated by Sep 2010
 - Sep 30, 2009 launch of the Ontario School Health Initiatives Database
 - June 2010 release of the School Health Guidance Document
 - Jan 27, 2014 first meeting of the Council of Directors of Education and Council of Medical Officers of Health joint committee [CODE-COMOH]
 - April 2014 release of *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario* by the Ontario Ministry of Education, which included a new goal “Promoting Well-Being: All children and students will develop enhanced mental and physical health, a positive sense of self and belonging, and the skills to make positive choices”
 - Nov 27, 2014 launch of Ministry of Education’s revised *Foundations for a Healthy School* resource
 - Feb 2015 release of the new *Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum, Grades 1-8 and 9-12*
 - Sep 2015 launch of Ophea’s *Healthy Schools Certification* program