



Ontario Society of Nutrition  
Professionals in Public Health

La société ontarienne des professionnel(le)s  
de la nutrition en santé publique

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March 5, 2013

The Honorable Deb Matthews  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care,  
Deputy Premier  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

On behalf of the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH), we applaud the Ontario government for releasing the report of the Healthy Kids Panel, *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy*.

OSNPPH members were actively involved in the development of our recommendations to the Healthy Kids Panel in September 2012, and we appreciated the opportunity to meet with Panel member Phyllis Tanaka to elaborate on our submission. We are pleased that the report's three pronged strategy, focusing on impacting the early years by starting all kids on the path to health; changing the food environment; and creating healthy communities, strongly reflects OSNPPH priorities.

OSNPPH is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians in public health in Ontario. OSNPPH provides leadership in public health nutrition, promoting and supporting member collaboration to improve the health for the residents of Ontario consistent with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's Ontario Public Health Standards.

The first step of creating an inter-ministerial working group is commendable. We resonate with statements from the Ministry that ways proposed to address childhood obesity must be evidence-based and cost-effective. It is reassuring that in addition to recommendations under the prongs, the strategy includes "ABC's" for implementation. We recognize that making a difference will need stacking of initiatives as no one measure will solve the problem, and that long term commitment is needed to sustain efforts to impact the determinants of the childhood obesity problem. Additionally, we highly agree that it is a priority to leverage and build on what we already have. Accordingly, our members have begun studying the full report in detail to assess how our work in public health nutrition across the province aligns with the report's recommendations.

We are energized and enthusiastic to advise your Ministry that OSNPPH is well-positioned to support implementation of the report. OSNPPH members look forward to opportunities to collaborate with the newly established inter-ministerial working group. We are eager to contribute to planning for how our members can implement the Panel's recommendations.

Please contact us at your earliest convenience to discuss how best that OSNPPH can be involved to move forward on this very important work that will improve the health of children in Ontario.

Sincerely,

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