



Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse
Annual Report
2001-2002



Ontario
Prevention
Clearinghouse

Centre ontarien
d'information
en prévention

Our mission

The Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse (OPC) facilitates and empowers individuals, groups and communities to work towards the realization of their social, emotional, physical and environmental health and well being.



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Moving forward

Message from the President and Executive Director

It is with great pleasure that we present the Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse's 2001/02 annual report.

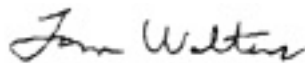
During the past year, OPC has matured and changed. We have embarked on new projects and begun to merge our long-term programs into a stronger, whole organization.

Highlights include:

- ❖ the growth of Best Start,
- ❖ provision of a stronger secretariat to the Ontario Health Promotion Resource System, and
- ❖ expansion of our consultation and information services.

Behind the scenes, we improved our information system and financial and human resources practices, and integrated new Board members. As always, the year's successes stemmed from teamwork -- among staff and directors, and between OPC, our funders, partners and stakeholders.

It is with great regret that Tom says good-bye to OPC, after two terms on the Board. OPC is greatly indebted to Tom for his insight, knowledge and skills, all of which were offered generously. Connie looks forward to another productive year of supporting organizations in partnership with communities.



Tom Walters
President



Connie Clement
Executive Director



What we do

At OPC, we network, we distribute resources, we provide information, we train, and we consult strategically in all aspects of health promotion.

Our work is guided by four priorities: children, capacity, community, and change.

We are a bilingual organization, working in both English and French throughout Ontario.

Our programs

- ❖ Best Start: Ontario's Maternal, Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre supports community health professionals working on health promotion initiatives to implement maternal, newborn and child health promotion programs and initiatives. We provide training, consultation, networking and referrals, as well as resources and information.
- ❖ OPC Health Promotion Resource Centre works to strengthen the capacity of people involved in health promotion in their communities. We provide consultation services, learning events, resources and electronic bulletins. Our consulting team offers information, advice and support through short-term and in-depth consultations on topics such as program and partnership development and community mobilization.
- ❖ Ontario Health Promotion Resource System (OHPRS) Secretariat coordinates system-level planning, reporting and special projects for 21 organizations that work collaboratively to support health promotion in Ontario. The Secretariat also facilitates communication among members via an Intranet and maintains the OHPRS calendar of events.
- ❖ OPC also hosts and carries out projects directly. This year our major project was to support community capacity to apply health promotion as part of Ontario's Stroke Prevention Strategy.

Accomplishments

Solution-oriented services

This year, OPC served a wide variety of organizations and communities: all 38 health units across Ontario, community-based non-profit organizations and citizen groups, community health centres, other health promotion resource centres, and health care providers such as midwives and family physicians.

Here are the services we provided:

- ❖ Over 1500 consultations by phone and e-mail to provide brief, strategic advice to organizations and communities;
- ❖ 450 consultations with groups and organizations- 31% in French;
- ❖ 50 workshops and other learning events, including Best Start's annual conference attended by 200 participants;
- ❖ 10 new or revised resources. We distributed nearly 51,000 print resources in all;
- ❖ 230,000 copies of the Early Years Primer, co-produced with Family Communications, and distributed free to pregnant women through Expecting and Labour and Birth Guide;
- ❖ 5 websites, two in partnership with other organizations, providing information, access to our staff and resources.

Dynamic partnerships

- ❖ We served every region of Ontario.
- ❖ Public health units most frequently used our English services, while services in French were used most often by community-based, voluntary health organizations.
- ❖ All three of our electronic bulletins increased their distribution: OHPE (the Ontario Health Promotion Electronic bulletin), Le Bloc-Notes, and the Maternal Newborn Child Health Promotion Network E-Bulletin. The MNCHPN E-Bulletin grew by 400% and was the focus of a member survey that resulted in improved facilitation of the Network.
- ❖ Click4HP, an electronic community supported by OPC that focuses on the broad issues of health promotion, grew by 20%.

Focus on...

Best Start has a new name! We are now called Best Start: Ontario's Maternal, Newborn and Early Child Development Resource Centre, with an expanded mandate from the Federal-Provincial Early Child Development initiative.

- ❖ In our first year of Early Child Development funding, we were able to enhance and expand our programming and networks to promote the health of mothers, newborns and young children.
- ❖ In partnership with Family Communications, a private-sector magazine publisher, and numerous experts in the field of child and maternal health, Best Start produced two new resources: The Early Years Primer, a magazine insert, followed by A Parents' Guide to the Early Years, a small book, to be distributed to new mothers in 2002.
- ❖ The Health Promotion Resource Centre addressed the needs of older children and youth. We consulted with Halton Region to increase the impact of youth advisors and define training needs for youth engagement.
- ❖ We helped define partnerships and outreach for a program called Kids Have Stress Too, a program of the Psychology Foundation of Canada for parents of children from preschool to age nine.

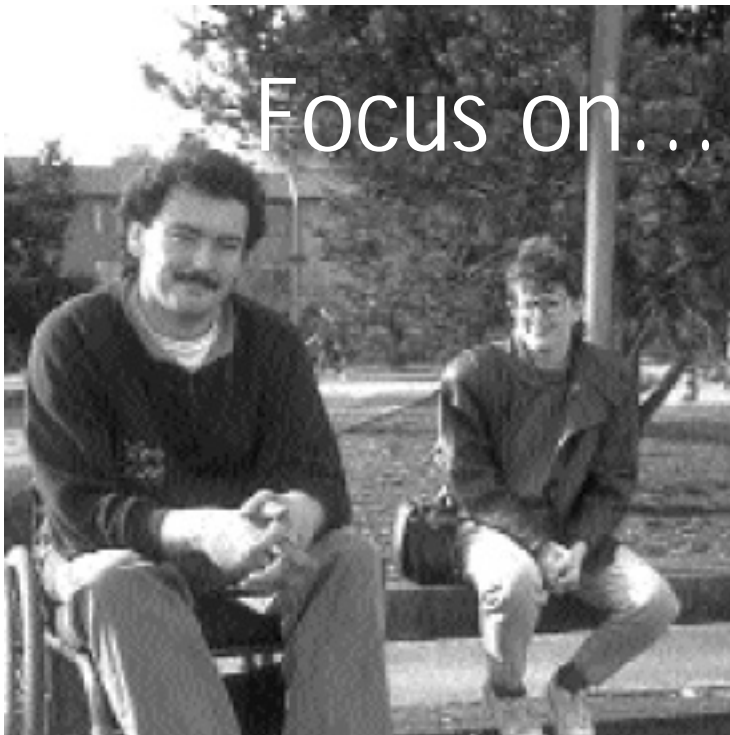


Children

Best Start provides critical leadership in perinatal and infant health in Ontario. Their resource development, conferences and networking provide a great support system for those of us who are working in the field.

—Paula Stewart, Consultant

Focus on...



Capacity

Health Promotion Resource System

OPC provides the secretariat to the Ontario Health Promotion Resource System (OHPRS), the network of 21 programs and organizations that receive funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care's Health Promotion & Wellness program. We actively contribute to committees, provide and foster use of an Intranet, organize bi-annual all-member meetings, and administer resources. Committees address evaluation, information management, communications, resource dissemination and French language services. This year we supported the development of an OHPRS decision-making framework to respond to new initiatives and opportunities.

Stroke Prevention

OPC contributed to Ontario Stroke Strategy this year. We facilitated introductions and awareness between health promoters and regional stroke centre coordinators, consulted widely, and advised the Ministry of Health & Long-term Care about initiatives required to build community capacity to address stroke prevention.

I want to thank OPC for coming to our Network meeting. We had a great turnout. Many members indicated that they really enjoyed the session. We appreciate you sharing your expertise. Many thanks!

—Halton Region for Heart Health Coordinator

Focus on...

This year, OPC made presentations or offered training in rural and urban communities in every region of Ontario. Here are some highlights:

- ❖ Designed training materials and conducted workshops with the Ontario Self-Help Network, local heart health coalitions and the Canadian Diabetes Association.
- ❖ Coordinated French-language Ontario Health Promotion Summer School, and gave workshops to local practitioners on capacity building in health promotion.
- ❖ Supported early development of Regroupement des femmes francophones immigrantes de Toronto.
- ❖ gave workshops to health and community organizations on the effective use of the Internet for health promoters.
- ❖ Consulted with local health staff groups on health promotion during pregnancy and reproductive health.
- ❖ Shared facilities and ideas with our colleagues at Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition and the Ontario Women's Health Network.



Community

OPC's ability to understand our job, match us with an appropriate and able facilitator, and provide the needed supports to the group made our work productive and effective.

—Donna Mitchell, Ph.D Health Promotion Consultant

Focus on...



The participation of OPC on the Best Practices Work Group was greatly appreciated. The two OPC members definitely made a difference to the overall success of the project.

—Barbara Kahan, Co-Chair, Best Practices Work Group

Change

In support of strategic change, OPC worked in partnership with other organizations and on many boards, advisory committees, and taskforces.

- ❖ Folic Acid: It's Never Too Early, a social marketing campaign by the Folic Acid Alliance Ontario launched in March 2002;
- ❖ Are Widening Income Inequalities Making Canada Less Healthy, a report by the Health Determinants Partnership, released in fall, 2001;
- ❖ Ontario Public Health Association;
- ❖ Pregnancy Network on Environmental Tobacco Smoke;
- ❖ PromoSanté, an internet-based French-language health promotion project providing resources and distance education);
- ❖ Best Practices in Health Promotion;
- ❖ Federal/Provincial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Working Group;
- ❖ Provincial Perinatal Partnership;
- ❖ Taskforce for the Future of the Centre for Health Promotion;
- ❖ Canadian Health Network

Treasurer's Report

Financial statement, year ending March 31, 2002

ONTARIO PREVENTION CLEARINGHOUSE	
Financial Statements as at March 31, 2002	
Statement of Operating Fund Revenue and Expenditure	
Revenues	
Province of Ontario	\$ 3,120,110
Interest	24,494
Other	357,145
TOTAL REVENUE	3,501,749
Expenses	
Salaries & Fee for Service	2,175,185
Program Activities & Materials	1,047,976
Administration & Finance	433,627
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,656,788
Excess of Expenditures over Revenue	(155,039)
Total Expenses Minus Deficit	\$ 3,501,749

Audited financial statement available on request

OPC Board

April 1, 2001–March 31, 2002

OPC is blessed with a dedicated and knowledgeable Board of Directors. We thank them for their collective guidance.

To learn more about our program, services and the staff who can help you, visit our website: www.opc.on.ca

Tony Anderson
Jane Bertrand
Pat Campbell
Diane Chaperon-Lor
Lai Chu
Tony Lepine
Simon Mielniczuk
Wesley Romulus
Ken Ross
Paul Truex
Tom Walters (BOARD PRESIDENT)

