

# APHEO

ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
EPIDEMIOLOGISTS  
IN ONTARIO



TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE THE DISCIPLINE  
& PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
IN ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS

2 0 0 1

A N N U A L R E P O R T

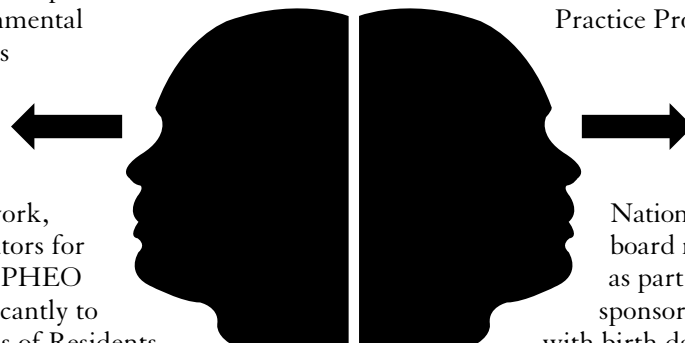
## 2001 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Vice-President	Secretary-Treasurer	alpha Representative	OCCHA Representative
Terry Delmore Halton Regional Health Department	Adam Stevens Brant County Health Unit	Kathy Moran Durham Region Health Department	Brenda Coleman Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit	Ruth Sanderson Middlesex-London Health Unit

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT: A LOOK BOTH WAYS

submitted by: Terry Delmore

**T**he title of last year's report was "What's Ahead for APHEO". Since 2001 was the 10th anniversary of the Association, I felt it would be a good time to not only look ahead, but also back on some of our major accomplishments. What first comes to mind is the scope and high quality of the nine workshops and conferences that we have held, from the 1993 workshop on Perinatal Health to the conference last year on GIS and the planned tenth event this year on Environmental Epidemiology. Next on my list is the important work of the Public Health Indicators Working Group (PHIWG) and the positive profile they have given us. Their previous work, "Core Population Health Indicators for Ontario", together with other APHEO involvement, contributed significantly to the "Report on the Health Status of Residents of Ontario" which was produced by the PHRED Program. The next product of PHIWG, "Core Indicators for Public Health in Ontario", will expand the list of indicators and the information provided within each indicator. The result will be showcased in a new website later this year. The Association's Strategic Planning process, which was initiated at a workshop in 1999, has and will continue to make us a



stronger organization. As a result of an issue identified in this planning process, we collaborated with PHRED in writing an article, "The Art and Science of Evidence-based Planning... Epidemiology can Help", which appeared in the January/February 2002 issue of the Canadian Journal of Public Health. Our presence on numerous MOHLTC and PHRED committees include the recent Mandatory Program Technical Review Committees and the Effective Public Health Practice Project. As well, we provide consultation and support to the Skills Enhancement Project with the Health Protection Branch of Health Canada, including participation on their National Advisory Committee. We are board members of OCCHA and alpha; as part of the latter organization, we sponsored two alpha resolutions dealing with birth data which led to our concerns being addressed by the Registrar General's Office. Finally, as a result of a major initiative this past year, which came to fruition in January of this year, we are now a Constituent Society of OPHA. This will provide new opportunities for us to bring epidemiologic issues and APHEO priorities to the attention of a broader audience. At the end of ten years, we have a lot to be proud of.



OCCHA is an independent agency whose mission is to promote excellence in public health programs and services. Its objectives are:

- To define, review and publicize standards related to structure, process and outcome.
- To enhance knowledge through consultation and shared experience.
- To measure agency performance against peer-set standards.
- To promote continuous growth and improvement by submitting comprehensive and constructive reports to public health agencies.
- To confer graduated awards.
- To work in partnership with other organizations and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHTLC), Public Health Branch, to promote excellence in public health programs and services.

OCCHA is directed by a Board of Directors whose members are appointed by professional associations involved in public health. To be appointed to the OCCHA Board of Directors, a representative must be active at the management/consultative level in public health and must be approved for election or appointment by the member organization that he/she is representing on the OCCHA Board. Ruth Sanderson has represented APHEO on this Board for the past three years. Ruth will step into the role of Vice-President of OCCHA for 2002.



This past year 2001, was a year of action. In addition to building the groundwork for the launch of its website: [www.occha.org](http://www.occha.org), OCCHA was very hard at work accrediting health units, completing its strategic plan, contributing to a number of provincial projects.

Accreditation is the process whereby the organizational and administrative aspects of a health unit including program planning, implementation and evaluation, are measured against peer set principles and standards. There are 13 health units in Ontario accredited and a number of health units began working with OCCHA in 2001 to prepare for first-time accreditation in 2002.

OCCHA's Strategic Plan 2001-2003, was shared with APHEO when Meighan Finlay, Executive Director of OCCHA, attended the APHEO Annual Meeting on November 16, 2001. She provided an overview of OCCHA, focused on the accreditation process and OCCHA's four key strategic directions. The four key strategic directions established for 2001-2003 by OCCHA include:

- Strengthen Ministry of Health Support for OCCHA and its Work

- Enhance Customer Service and Marketing of OCCHA and Accreditation
- Nurture/ Strengthen Partnerships and Alliances to Support OCCHA and its Work
- Explore Options Beyond Accreditation

In keeping with the strategic directions, the OCCHA Board of Directors continued discussions with the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care, Public Health Branch regarding strengthening their support for both OCCHA and the accreditation process. These discussions have included, but are not limited to:

- The review and revision of the accreditation principles and standards, by the OCCHA Board, to more clearly reflect the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines,
- The review of incentives for participation in the accreditation process, and
- The review of the role of both OCCHA and accreditation in the Accountability Framework.

A full report of the Strategic Planning Process is available on the OCCHA website.

OCCHA continued to be involved with two major workgroups; the "Mandatory Programs Measurement Working Group and the "Ontario Public Health Benchmarking Partnership". The Director of OCCHA will chair the Benchmarking Partnership for 2002.

## COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IN 2001 submitted by: Adam Stevens



Members of APHEO participated on the following committees in 2001:

1. Asthma Surveillance Working Group (ASWG)
  - Established: September, 2000
  - APHEO member: Mary Lou Decou (Niagara)
  - Goal: provide scientific and technical expertise pertinent to surveillance regarding asthma. The ASWG will identify current and potential data sources and recommend surveillance options to serve the needs and strategies identified by the Asthma Strategy Advisory Committee.
2. Public Health Information Strategy Advisory Committee
  - Established: Spring, 2000
  - APHEO member: Sharat Doshi (Eastern Health Unit),
  - Mandate: assist in providing direction and advice to the Ministry's strategic information technology systems plan for public health. Committee was dormant in 2001.
  - <http://ww5.eagle.ca/PHB/phb.htm>
3. Skills Enhancement for Health Surveillance National Advisory Committee
  - Established: March, 2000
  - APHEO members: Larry Chambers (City of Hamilton)

## COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT IN 2001 *continued from page 02*

- Mandate: provide leadership, advice and direction to Health Canada's project team to help develop a distance-learning modular program in epidemiology, surveillance and information management.
4. Masters in Health Science Community Health & Epidemiology External Advisory Committee (University of Toronto)
    - Established: June, 2000
    - APHEO member: Brenda Guarda (Simcoe County), Bill Kou (York Region), and Julie Stratton (Regional Municipality of Peel)
    - Purpose: provide advice to the program director in matters relating to the overall direction, content, and performance of the program. As well, the Committee provides advice on the relationships between the MHSc CH&E program and its participating agencies and external environment.
  5. Mandatory Programs Measurement Working Group
    - Established: January, 2000
    - APHEO member: Mary Lou Decou (Niagara)
    - Mandate: develop comprehensive measures which will demonstrate board of health effectiveness in implementing program standards of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines.
  6. Effective Public Health Practice Project
    - Established: September, 1998
    - APHEO member: Mary Lou Decou (Niagara)
    - Mandate: Maintain province-wide participation in the development and dissemination of systematic reviews and other related activities.
  7. Ontario Public Health Benchmarking Partnership
    - Established: 1998/1999
    - APHEO member: Ruth Sanderson (Middlesex-London)
    - Mandate: promote benchmarking in Ontario health units.
  8. OCCHA Principal and Standards Committee
    - APHEO member: Ruth Sanderson (Middlesex-London); resigned in June to join the OCCHA Marketing Committee
    - Mandate: review the findings of the accreditation survey teams and review/revise OCCHA standards for the accreditation process.
  9. OCCHA Marketing Committee
    - APHEO member: Chair - Ruth Sanderson (Middlesex-London)
    - Mandate: enhance customer service and ensure widespread knowledge of the accreditation process. Major accomplishments include the launch of the OCCHA website, the presentation of the seal of excellence to public health units with 5+ continuous years of accreditation status, and arranging for the OCCHA director to visit the professional associations, including APHEO, which contribute to the OCCHA Board.
- 
10. Mandatory Program Technical Review Committees
    - Established: November, 1999
    - APHEO members: Adam Stevens (Brant)-Early Detection of Cancer, Brenda Coleman (Elgin-St. Thomas)-Reproductive Health, Terry Delmore (Halton)-Injury Prevention
    - Mandate: review and where necessary, recommend revisions to the above-mentioned Program Standards of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines 1997.
  11. Dental Index Survey (DIS) Protocol Working Group
    - Established: February 1999
    - APHEO member: Ruth Sanderson (Middlesex-London)
    - Mandate: review the goals of the Dental Indices Survey and make recommendations for revision to the Mandatory Guideline Committee.
  12. Provincial Health Indicators Working Group (PHIWG)
    - Established: February 1998
    - APHEO members: 16; Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, Chair (Durham Region)
    - Purpose: systematically define and operationalize a core set of health status indicators using, as a framework, an elaboration of the Ontario Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines; promote use of the indicators and encourage public health units, district health councils, health intelligence units and others to adopt the indicators as defined and to generate the indicators for their areas.
  13. Integrated Services for Children and Youth (ISCIS)
    - Established: 1998
    - APHEO members: Brenda Coleman (Elgin-St. Thomas), Mary-Anne Pietrusiak (Durham Region), and Elizabeth Rael (MOHLTC-Public Health Branch)
    - Purpose: allow the extraction of information from ISCIS.
  14. Food Biotechnology Workgroup
    - Established: November, 2000
    - APHEO member: Bryan Embree
    - Purpose: prepare a position paper on the influence of this new technology on public health. The multi-disciplinary workgroup set out to review and critically appraise the existing, controversial and limited information on the subject, and to identify issues of concern to public health. Next steps focus on communication of findings and advocacy.

## ALPHA REPORT FOR 2001 submitted by: Brenda Coleman

**T**he mission is “ALPHA, through a strong and unified voice, advocates for public health policies, programs and services on behalf of member health units in Ontario”.

The Association of Public Health Agencies or ALPHA was heavily involved in the Walkerton Inquiry into the E. coli contamination of the water system. Representatives attended most of the public inquiry, submitted a paper “Ensuring Drinking Water Quality in Ontario”, were invited as a guest to attend the “Expert Meetings”, and kept health units posted on the process.

The annual conference “Building the Capacity for Community Health” was co-hosted by the Brant County Health Unit and held in Brantford in June. Mary-Anne Pietrusiak, epidemiologist from Durham Region health Unit, was presented with the ALPHA Distinguished Award at the Annual Awards Banquet. Congratulations, Mary-Anne. Your hard work deserved the recognition.

Andrew Papadopoulos, the Executive Director of ALPHA, directed a government relations firm to work with them in the promotion of public health. The “Smart Health” concept was used to promote the link between fiscal constraint and health. The relations firm helped set up meetings with key government officials, proposed increased visibility through lobbying local MPPs, and was instrumental in having ALPHA be invited to make a submission to the Ministry of Finance before the last budget.

ALPHA was informed that they would not receive the portion of their funding that has been provided by the Public Health Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Other sources of funding are being explored.

In 2001, the staff of ALPHA produced a CD-Rom entitled Directory of Ontario Jurisdictions Cross-referenced by Health Unit. They also did a survey of Health Units to produce a salary and wages comparison document for 2001. ALPHA sponsored the Fitness Challenge on May 11th, which was won by the Northwestern Health Unit with 100% participation.

## APHEO FINANCIAL REPORT submitted by: Kathy Moran

<b>Income (01 January 2001-10 January 2002)</b>	
Conference 2001	\$ 35,779.41
Interest Income	0.95
Memberships 2001	2,850.00
Memberships 2002	350.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 38,980.36</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Annual Report - design	\$ 171.20
Conference 2000	314.40
Conference 2001	34,434.45
Display	1,391.76
Gifts Given	135.55
General Meetings - Refreshments	162.04
Travel Expenses - ALPHA	56.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 36,665.40</b>
<b>Total Income - Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,314.96</b>
Balance Forward	
Chequing	5,754.53
Investment	2,076.12
<b>Total Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$ 7,830.65</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,145.61</b>

## 2001 MEMBERSHIP REPORT submitted by: Kathy Moran

**A**PHEO membership continues to grow! By the end of 2001, there was a total of 75 members: 36 members and 39 affiliate memberships. This represents an increase of 5 members from 2000.

APHEO is supported by returning members and affiliates. Of the 75 memberships, 53 individuals were returning from 2000, 27 of which were members and 26 were affiliates. Renewals represent 71% of the total membership.

APHEO continues to attract new memberships. Of the 22 individuals new to APHEO this year, 10 were members and 12 were affiliates.

