



TORONTO DISTRICT
HEALTH COUNCIL

LE CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
DE SANTÉ DE TORONTO

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Your local voice in health planning



2000 Annual Report 2001

**Toronto District
Health Council**



Message from the Chair



The Toronto District Health Council (Toronto DHC) has a significant role in developing strategies to create and maintain coordinated health services for the people of Toronto. This is accomplished partly through intensive community and stakeholder consultation where we meet and listen to a variety of issues affecting the health needs of Toronto citizens. The knowledge and insight we gather, coupled with our planning and analysis expertise on community based health issues, helps to inform and add value to the advice we provide to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. Throughout the coming year we will intensify our consultation activities in an effort to reach out to the many ethno-cultural and diverse communities that comprise this complex city of Toronto.

The past twelve months have been very busy for the DHC and our accomplishments are chronicled elsewhere in this Report. There are however three areas that command comment. The shortage of health care workers is being felt across the province. There are no quick solutions to this growing problem, but we have partnered with the Central Ontario DHCs in an attempt to coordinate efforts and develop recommendations to address this issue. We hope that by working together we may be able to see some answers soon. Another issue that was brought to our attention is in the area of palliative care. After meeting with health care providers and caregivers, we were able to initiate a Toronto-wide Palliative Care Network which will coordinate and improve access to end-of-life services. And finally I am pleased to announce that we are partnering with a number of organizations and embarking upon a major undertaking for seniors in Toronto. This will result in recommendations that will assist our aging population in accessing much needed health care services.

As Chair of Council, I am pleased to represent our community on two provincial initiatives. The Toronto and Peel Mental Health Implementation Task Force is working with nine such task forces in Ontario to develop plans to implement mental health reform, provincial psychiatric hospital restructuring and community investments. The Ontario Family Health Network is an agency that oversees a voluntary program that encourages patients, primary care physicians and other health care providers to participate in a network which provides coordinated, high quality care or advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In my role as a member of these bodies, I will be bringing forward issues from a local perspective and will be sharing information and knowledge about Toronto's specific and unique health care needs.

The Toronto District Health Council's primary task is to see that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and others have good information about the community's health care needs and can make decisions which result in an improved health care system. Please visit our Website at www.tdhc.org, and feel free to contact me at tdhc@tdhc.org with your comments.

Carole Kerbel
Chair

We invite you to contact us at:

Toronto District Health Council, 4141 Yonge St., Suite 200, Willowdale, ON M2P 2A8



Message from the Executive Director



This past year has been one of learning and growth at the Toronto District Health Council. The Board has been working at improving the governance process and has developed policies that will provide clearer guidance for our efforts. Management and staff have also been working hard at improving internal processes directed at strengthening Council's ability to give sound advice – advice that is based on improved planning techniques, good project management, productive collaboration with partners in the community, and a compelling marshalling of factual information.

One of the major themes of the year has been an exploration of the relationship between the urban experience and the health of a city's population. In April, the Toronto DHC, with several partners, hosted the Urban Health Research and Policy Open Space Forum. A very broad assortment of providers, researchers, advocates and decision-makers came together to discuss issues of common interest – how to create productive dialogue between researchers and decision-makers that improves the health of Toronto's residents. Four ongoing groups were formed to continue the momentum created at this event – to address the challenges of a human development strategy, improving the health of babies and children, community-based participatory research and supportive housing in our city.

Toronto DHC staff, working with a committed group of experts, completed the Equity Analysis this year, in response to a question posed during the Health System Monitoring Project – are the benefits of health system reform being experienced differently by subgroups in the city's population? We found that, for the poor, health status is characterized by problems of low birth weight, short-term disability and chronic illness. We also found a major concern regarding sexual health for individuals with low income and low education. Higher rates of avoidable hospitalization are also associated with low income. This year we hope to find some practical strategies for improving population health by targeting prevention and primary care initiatives to at-risk neighbourhoods.

While working with Public Health to develop strategies for hospital discharge planning and improved continuity of care for individuals who are homeless, the Toronto DHC developed a toolkit with easy access to needed information for hospital discharge planners. The toolkit is currently being tested in Toronto hospitals and has been very well-received.

In July, the Toronto DHC released an update on French language health services available in Toronto. Due to the magnitude of services and providers in our city, the Toronto DHC created a bilingual Website to guide consumers and providers to the appropriate service at www.franco-healthtoronto.ca.

The Toronto DHC will continue to monitor the local health system performance, coming out with a new report this fall. Areas to be evaluated will include those aspects of a large urban environment that affect the health of our community. We will continue to work toward a better understanding of the urban health experience in Toronto.

Scott Dudgeon
Executive Director



Accomplishments

2000 2001

Monitoring the System

- Produced the first *Toronto Health System Monitoring: Equity Analysis* to assess health inequities in selected vulnerable populations in Toronto.
- Reviewed hospital and mental health agency operating plans, identifying common system issues and implications for the various communities within the City of Toronto.

Developing Solutions to Community Needs

- Produced *Health Human Resources Planning in Ontario*, a status report on the size and nature of the shortages in health human resources.
- Developed a bilingual Website as a guide to French language health services in Toronto.
- Developed a toolkit with easy access to needed information for hospital staff to use when discharging people who are homeless.
- Produced *Population Projections for City of Toronto*, an analysis of projections released by Statistics Canada in July 2000 that looks at population growth, comparisons of the GTA regions and between the former municipalities of Metro Toronto, and age structure for Toronto and Ontario.
- Reviewed the Humber River Regional Hospital's redevelopment proposal regarding its impact on access to services, other providers, and existing referral patterns.
- Produced the *French Language Health Services Update for Toronto*.
- Worked with Community Care Access Centres to optimize the use of community nursing resources.
- Developed a more interactive TDHC Website to assist in attaining feedback from our community.

Fostering Partnerships

- Produced *Creating a Coordinated Stroke Strategy for Toronto*, with recommendations toward a continuum of care from health promotion, pre-hospital, acute care and rehabilitation to community reintegration and risk factor management.
- Hosted an *Urban Health Open Space Forum* with the City of Toronto, Ryerson University, the Sherbourne Health Centre, The Wellesley Central Health Corporation and the University of Toronto, to bring researchers, policy makers and community agencies together to discuss ways of dealing with urban health issues for Toronto.
- Worked with Public Health to develop recommendations toward improved continuity of health care for people who are homeless.
- Provided lecturers and placements for students of health administration, medicine and social work.



What's New?

2001
2002

Community Initiatives

- Continue to facilitate the implementation of the TDHC coordinated stroke strategy for Toronto.
- Continue to facilitate the implementation of a palliative care network in Toronto.
- Conduct an inventory of supportive housing services for seniors and estimate the demand for services; make recommendations toward coordinated access, draft benchmarks, and identify best practices and alternative delivery models.
- Survey health service organizations to assess emergency preparedness and help to implement best practices.
- Survey mental health housing/housing supports providers to identify strengths and areas for improvement and relay findings to the Ministry and Mental Health Implementation Task Force.
- Continue to partner with Family Physicians Toronto to improve communication between hospitals and family physicians.
- Initiate a children's health services project, beginning with a paper on innovative models for integrated children's services delivery.
- Continue to review hospital and mental health operating plans to identify system issues.
- Review funding proposals for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as needed.

Regional Initiatives

- Work with all DHCs to conduct a Provincial Labour Market Survey.
- Collaborate with provincial DHCs to design a template and produce the first local health system monitoring reports.



Toronto District Health Council Financials

Condensed Core & French Language Service Statement of Financial Position, March 31, 2001

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current assets.....	701,393	539,499
Capital assets	41,681	14,324
	743,074	553,823
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities	100,451	133,836
Net assets:		
Invested in capital assets.....	41,681	14,324
Balance of funds	600,942	405,663
	642,623	419,987
	743,074	553,823

Statement of Operations Year ended March 31, 2001

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Advances – Ministry of Health & LTC.....	2,378,455	2,017,274
Other	4,930	11,781
	2,383,385	2,029,055
Expenditures:		
Salaries & benefits	1,480,285	1,580,615
Office accommodation	205,186	190,703
Amortization of capital assets	6,469	6,584
Other supplies & expenses.....	439,880	363,615
Minor capital & one time expenses.....	22,035	19,994
	2,153,855	2,161,511
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenues)	229,530	(132,456)