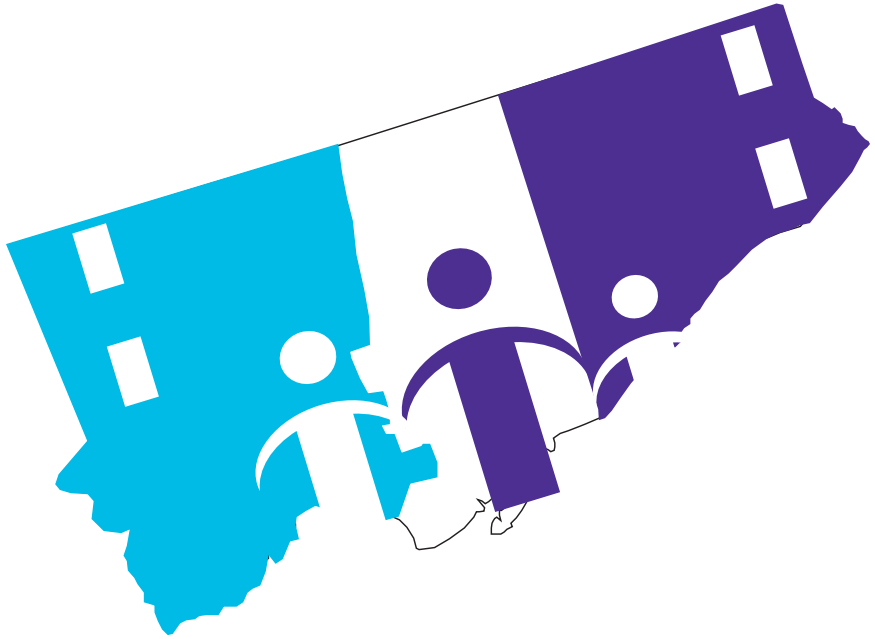
Toronto District Health Council

2003 - 2004 Annual Report: Assessing Our Impact



TORONTO DISTRICT HEALTH COUNCIL
LE CONSEIL RÉGIONAL DE SANTÉ DE TORONTO

...Effecting system-wide improvements in health

...Améliorer l'ensemble du système de santé

www.tdhc.org

Message from our Chair

Before becoming Chair of the Toronto District Health Council (TDHC) in December 2003, I attended a Health Policy Summit in Ottawa. At this summit the future Chair of the new National Health Council, Michael Decter, spoke about the waves of change that have been sweeping Canada's healthcare sector. These included a heightened public demand for a more accountable healthcare system; a growing consensus about the need to invest more in preventive healthcare; and the imperative to focus greater resources on public health and emergency response preparedness following the SARS outbreak last March. These waves of change were reflected in a new political commitment to measuring the performance of Canada's healthcare system. In addition to the creation of the National Health Council, charged with monitoring and improving the accountability of our nation's healthcare system, The Honourable Carolyn Bennett was appointed to the federal cabinet as Minister of State for Public Health.

Political change also occurred in the province of Ontario with the election of a Liberal government. The new government articulated several healthcare priorities such as improving care for seniors in their communities, better mental healthcare as well as fostering our children's health and development. The TDHC sent an 'MPP Briefing Binder' to the new Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, his parliamentary secretaries and all Toronto area MPPs as an orientation on the state of Toronto's healthcare system and the TDHC's work to address its challenges. We conducted in-person briefing sessions with as many MPPs as possible. We told them about the TDHC's groundbreaking work to develop a Toronto Health System Framework that, if implemented, would create a more integrated, coordinated and efficient system of healthcare service delivery to Toronto residents. In other words, Toronto required healthcare providers to work together to address its unique health challenges as a major urban centre.

In late February, Scott Dudgeon and I made a presentation at legislative hearings regarding Bill 8, legislation introduced by the Ontario government to establish the Health Quality Council. We told the committee how the TDHC was well positioned to support the council's efforts to monitor the health system, given our years of work under the guise of our Local Health System Monitoring Project (LHSMP). We recently added to this expertise with the completion of the Small Health Planning Areas Project and its revolutionary new approach to more effectively identifying the local health needs of Toronto's diverse communities.

At the hearings, we also made a point of emphasizing how generally well positioned the TDHC has been - and still is - to provide the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care with sound advice for planning Toronto's healthcare system. This is due to our ability to provide objective, locally based planning advice; very close link to the community through our volunteers; proven record of being the 'honest broker'; and philosophy of developing community-focused solutions.

So it has been a year of change and challenge for both myself and the TDHC. I resolve to make next year one of Impact, as we at the TDHC focus our efforts on many initiatives aimed at effecting system-wide improvements in health.

Message from our Executive Director

The Annual General Meeting is an excellent opportunity for us to thank the hundreds of volunteers who have so generously given their time, ideas and opinions towards improving health in Toronto. It is also the right time to reflect on recent accomplishments as well as signal new directions and goals for health system improvement.

The past year has seen the completion of several major system planning initiatives, the most comprehensive being the Toronto Health System Framework. This framework was released in June and uses a population-based approach to health planning. It recommends a system founded on care continua across Toronto, supported by information and communications technology and facilitated by a process where resource allocation follows local decision making. The framework identifies the need to move ahead in two priority areas - better management of chronic disease and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations, beginning with seniors and children and families.

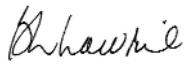
Early this year we began the third and final phase of our three year Seniors' Project. After having described the nature and scope of services across the spectrum of care and identifying issues and potential responses, we undertook our Seniors' Integration Project. This project is designed to enhance access to health and community care and facilitate transitions for seniors in Toronto.

Children also remain on our agenda. Following the release in 2003 of our report *Issues and Opportunities for a Multi-Sector Approach to Child Health in Toronto*, we have proceeded with a project to examine health needs, health services and health outcomes of children in two areas of the city. These results will help to further cross-sector planning and delivery of services for children and families.

Thanks to our Small Health Planning Areas Project, the Toronto District Health Council (TDHC) and health system planners now have a new and improved methodology for reporting health system utilization by defined geographic areas. These areas are based on Statistics Canada census tracts and use income as a proxy for understanding health status and health outcomes. This approach allows for the determination of underlying differences in the population and advances our ability to address the specific needs of Toronto's diverse population.

At the same time as we move ahead with important health system planning activities such as complex continuing care, we are also forging new partnerships to broaden our ability to address the relationship between the system and the broader determinants of health. We are in the early stages of looking at the complex factors by which we can assess and track the impact on health and health services of changes occurring in our city. These are longer term but important opportunities to align the different levels of planning to improve the quality of life for people living in Toronto.

We expect that we are entering a new and exciting phase of health system development. The government has announced its strategic priorities for health and its intention to improve integration and accountability in the system. We at the TDHC look forward to continued leadership in local health system planning. We also look forward to enhancing our knowledge in emerging priority areas such as urban health and health impact assessment. With your help, the TDHC can continue to have a positive impact on the delivery of healthcare services to the residents of Toronto.



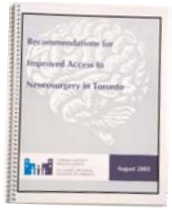
2003 - 2004: The TDHC's Impact on Toronto This Year

Complex Continuing Care in Toronto

A Final Frontier: Impact of Health Reforms and Population Change on the Community Support Sector in Toronto

Salvation Army Toronto Grace Hospital Relocation: Gap Analysis and Recommendations

Toronto Small Health Planning Areas: A Population-Based Approach To Constructing New Health Planning Areas in the City



Recommendations for Improved Access to Neurosurgery in Toronto

The Toronto Health System Framework

A Critical Juncture: A Review and Directory of Elderly Persons Centres in Toronto

Highlights from 2003 - 2004

The Toronto Health System Framework

June 2004

The TDHC's Health System Plan Steering Committee and its Care Coordination, System Alignment and Systems and Information Technology task forces unveiled the Toronto Health System Framework. The Framework addresses the health challenges facing our healthcare system due to Toronto being a diverse, major urban centre, including the need for improved care coordination.

New Toronto Health Planning Areas Created

March 2004

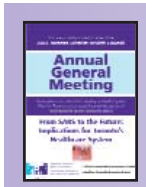
The TDHC worked in partnership with several leading organizations to develop a population-based methodology of segmenting Toronto into 5 major and 15 minor 'Health Planning Areas'. This approach is based on Statistics Canada census tracts and utilizes income as a key indicator of a population's health status, which will allow health planners to more effectively determine the unique health needs of their communities.

Seniors Integration Project

March 2004

The Seniors Integration Project Work Group released a consultation document describing a proposed model of integrated care for seniors in Toronto that emphasizes making prevention, health promotion, activation and support services available to seniors in their community. In March and April, the Work Group consulted with a broad range of consumers and providers of seniors' services to gather feedback on the proposed model.

TDHC SARS Panel Discussion



November 2003

More than one-hundred attendees listened to seven distinguished guest panelists speak about the recent SARS outbreak and its implications for the future of Toronto's healthcare system.

Condensed Financials

Assets:

Current Assets	151,333.00
Capital Assets	58,739.00
Total Assets	*210,072.00*

Liabilities:

Current Liabilities	149,654.00

Net Assets:

Invested in capital assets	58,739.00
Balance of funds	1,679.00
Total Net Assets	60,418.00
Total Liabilities	*210,072.00*

Statement of Operations:

Year ended March 31, 2004	
Revenue Advances - MOHLTC	2,248,537.00
Other	699.00
Total Revenues	*2,249,236.00*

Expenditures*:

Salaries and Benefits	1,545,374.00
Office Accommodation	260,522.00
Other supplies and expenses	400,465.00
Capital and one-time expenditures	2,581.00
Total Expenditures	*2,208,942.00*

Excess of revenue over expenditures	40,294.00
Capital Expenditures	39,595.00
Balance of Funds	*699.00*

*excluding Amortization of Capital Assets

What our Stakeholders said

"On behalf of the GTA Rehab Network, we would like to thank you personally for your leadership and insight into the work of the waiting list information management task group. Through your participation, the task group has successfully achieved its goal of developing a proposal for a waiting list information management system."

Ms. Georgia Gerring
Chair
Waiting List Information Management Task Group

Ms. Charissa Levy
Executive Director
GTA Rehab Network

"The Toronto District Health Council is a valuable partner in the [Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative] and both Seaton House and St. Michael's Hospital would like to see this partnership continue to grow and evolve to better meet the needs of the men it serves."

Mr. Rahim Kurji
Project Developer
Seaton House - St. Michael's Hospital Health Care Integration

"Many thanks to the Toronto District Health Council (TDHC), for its dedication to helping us at *Passages* ensure Toronto francophone residents living with mental illness have access to community support in their own language."

Ms. Susan Meikle
Executive Director
Community Mental Health Centre North York

Mr. Steve Lurie
Executive Director
Canadian Mental Health Association-Toronto Branch

Mr. Jean-Gilles Pelletier
Directeur exécutif
Centre médico-social communautaire de Toronto

"During the SARS crisis, the Toronto District Health Council (TDHC) organized the almost nightly teleconferences that helped us learn how to deal with an emergency in an effective manner. The Toronto District Health Council (TDHC) has worked with Family Physicians Toronto like a 'hand in a glove'…This relationship should be viewed as a gold standard across the province."

Dr. Val Rachlis
President Elect
Ontario College of Family Physicians