



Welcome to the first edition of Start Up, a newsletter to update you on new developments as we build Ontario's first Agency for Health Protection and Promotion from the ground up.

Called for by many experts post SARS, Ontario's newly created Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Agency) is a cornerstone of the Ontario government's intricate and bold plan for public health renewal. Established by special legislation with an independent Board of Directors, it has a mandate to protect and promote the health of all Ontarians.

For additional background information, we invite you to visit the Agency's web site at www.oahpp.ca.

Message from Dr. David Walker, Chair of the Agency's Board of Directors

Dr. David Walker is the Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University. He chaired the expert panel on SARS and Infectious Disease Control. The panel's final report recommended the creation of a public health agency for the province. On June 27, 2007 Dr. Walker was appointed Chair of the Agency's founding Board of Directors.

[Read an excerpt from Dr. Walker's remarks at a March 4, 2008 news conference.](#)



Message from Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO

At a joint Ministry/Agency news conference on March 4, 2008, Dr. Walker announced the appointment of Dr. Vivek Goel as the Agency's founding President and CEO, effective July 1. Dr. Goel is currently Vice-President and Provost at the University of Toronto where he is also a professor in the Departments of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and Public Health Sciences at the University of Toronto.

[Read an excerpt from Dr. Goel's acceptance speech.](#)



Agency Headquarters Named in Honour of Dr. Sheela Basrur

On March 4, 2008 Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced that the Agency office will be named the Sheela Basrur Centre in honour of the former Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.

[Read more.](#)



Agency Milestones

The Agency was established on June 4, 2007 when the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007 received Royal Assent. On June 27, 2007, Dr. David Walker was appointed as the Agency's inaugural Chair of the Board of Directors and in July 2007, the six founding members were appointed by the Ontario Government.

[Read about our progress.](#)



Agency Transition Team Activities

The Agency has established a Transition Team to work on the implementation of several key initiatives including the continued development of the Agency's governance, accountability and administrative structures and policies.

[Read more.](#)

Recruitment Update

Recruitment is well underway for the Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer and three direct reports: Chief Financial Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Information Officer.

[Read More.](#)



Ontario

**Agency for Health
Protection and Promotion**

Start Up is produced by the Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to update you on start up and laboratory planning activities. The Agency welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at info@oahpp.ca.

415 Yonge Street, Suite 1600
Toronto, ON M5B 2E7

Tel: 416-314-5188
Fax: 416-314-4171

This newsletter has been emailed to you because you have been identified as an important stakeholder.
To unsubscribe, please reply back to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)

[What's New?](#)

[News Releases](#)

[Health Bulletins](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[President and CEO](#)

[About Us](#)

[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)

[Reports and Resources](#)

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Message from Dr. David Walker, Chair of the Agency's Board of Directors



Today public health renewal is much closer to where it should have been five years ago, but we have to strive not simply to be better – we must be the best. As the Agency has started to come into being, two things strike me, firstly the tremendous interest and support this project has received from academics, public health professionals, and the healthcare community

Secondly the tremendous opportunity we have to create a beacon organisation that can attract and draw upon talent from all over. In the period of downloading of Public Health, we lost many good medical and public health professionals, to the field, to the profession and to other parts of Canada and the world. Today we are receiving calls and emails

from those wishing to come or in many cases...to return.

We can draw in expertise from across the world – into Ontario. To work on solutions to problems facing Ontario, to understand and address the emergent health issues that are only a plane ride away or are already in our own communities.

This we will do as a part of a solution and part of a renewal. I sincerely hope that the support and enthusiasm of today continues – and we can look a few short years from now with pride at what we have collectively created.

**This is an excerpt from Dr. Walker's remarks at a joint Agency and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care news conference to provide an update on public health developments on the five year anniversary of SARS and to announce Dr. Goel's appointment.*

For more information please call 416-314-5188.

[▲ TOP](#)

[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified:



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)

[What's New?](#)

[News Releases](#)

[Health Bulletins](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[President and CEO](#)

[About Us](#)

[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)

[Reports and Resources](#)

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Message Dr. Vivek Goel, President and CEO



I feel privileged to accept this opportunity to serve the people of Ontario and am thrilled by the prospect of being part of the Agency's founding team.

I passionately believe in the Agency and its mandate to protect and promote the health of all Ontarians. In time, the Agency will be an internationally recognized centre of expertise that will be able to provide research, science and technical hands-on support for our public health units, front-line health care workers and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

At the core, and perhaps most important to me is my belief that the Agency should always put the best interests of the people of this province, first and foremost. As an independent, arms-length Agency, we will be able to speak out on important health issues, even if what we have to say is not politically popular.

Currently, the Agency is focused on operational start-up activities, however, in future I intend to forge new partnerships with various ministries, health service providers and academic organizations across the province, to harness and draw on the skills and knowledge in the field.

Creating a new Agency is an enormous undertaking and it will take time to build and evolve. It is my earnest hope that a few years from now, Ontario and Ontarians will be justly proud of their Agency and will truly see that the province learned from SARS, remembered and acted.

**This is an excerpt from Dr. Goel's acceptance speech at a joint Agency and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care news conference to provide an update on public health developments on the five year anniversary of SARS and to announce Dr. Goel's appointment.*

For more information please call 416-314-5188.

[▲ TOP](#)

[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified:



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)

[What's New?](#)

[News Releases](#)

[Health Bulletins](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[President and CEO](#)

[About Us](#)

[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)

[Reports and Resources](#)

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Agency Headquarters Named in Honour of Dr. Sheela Basrur

On March 4, 2008 Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced that the Agency office will be named the Sheela Basrur Centre in honour of the former Ontario Chief Medical Officer.



March 4, 2008: Dr. Sheela Basrur with her parents, Pari and Vasanth Basrur.

Tribute to Dr. Sheela Basrur

"It's a very sad day, Ontario lost a great citizen today. Dr. Sheela Basrur was a friend to the many millions of people who saw her on television as a figure who gave us all confidence during a very challenging time. Our hearts go out to her family and to all of those who she worked with over the many years. She was an inspirational leader who will be very much missed."

**June 2, 2008 George Smitherman
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care**

As a key panelist in the major post-SARS reports - the Walker report at the provincial level and the Naylor report at the national level – Doctor Basrur played a critical role in moving both the provincial and national policy agendas for health protection and public health.

The impact of the initiatives she was central to at the City of Toronto level – the by-law restricting pesticide use and the city-wide anti-smoking by-law – helped influence later policy at the provincial level. The DineSafe program launched in 2001 at the city subsequently has gone on to be emulated and studied by multiple other jurisdictions.

Shortly after becoming Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Basrur led Operation Health Protection, a multi-faceted plan to renew public health in Ontario. Many components of this plan have been or are being implemented. She also led the development of the Smoke Free Ontario Act, taking provincial what she had led at the municipal level years earlier.

Dr. Basrur was instrumental in the creation of the independent Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. We will be proud to walk each day into the Sheela Basrur Centre as we work to ensure we never forget her contributions.

For more information please call 416-314-5188.



[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified:



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)

[What's New?](#)

[News Releases](#)

[Health Bulletins](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[President and CEO](#)

[About Us](#)

[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)

[Reports and Resources](#)

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Agency Milestones

The Agency was established on June 4, 2007 when the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007* received Royal Assent. On June 27, 2007, Dr. David Walker was appointed as the Agency's inaugural Chair of the Board of Directors and in July 2007, the six founding members were appointed by the Ontario Government.



Pictured from left to right are Agency Board members, Dr. Vivek Goel and former Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. George Pasut; (front row) Dr. Liana Nolan and Dr. Richard Massé; (second row) Dr. Vivek Goel and Judith Tompkins; (back row) Dr. Michael Christian and Dr. David Walker. The Board also includes Dr. Terry Sullivan, Vice Chair.

The Board's initial meetings addressed basic governance requirements, Board nominations, strategic directions and initial steps on organizational development. The Board has met eight

times as of the end of May 2008.

The Board conducted an international search and on March 4, 2008, Dr. Walker announced the appointment of Dr. Vivek Goel as the Agency's founding President and CEO, effective July 1, 2008. The appointment of the remaining seven founding board members is underway.

The launch of the Agency is coupled with the proposed transfer of the Ontario Public Health Laboratories (OPHL) – one of the largest public health laboratory systems in North America.

The information currently generated by OPHL through its testing and research activities informs diagnostic, clinical, environmental and public health decision making across the health system. The proposed transfer will provide the Agency with a significant base of in-house scientific expertise, and will more closely link public health laboratories with surveillance and epidemiology in this province. As a result of the creation of the Agency and the expectation of transfer, the OPHL has already recruited scientists and microbiologists from around the world.

A Transition Team has been created to assist with the Agency's start-up and transition activities.

For more information please call 416-314-5188.

 [TOP](#)

[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified:



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)
[What's New?](#)
[News Releases](#)
[Health Bulletins](#)
[Board of Directors](#)
[President and CEO](#)
[About Us](#)
[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)
[Reports and Resources](#)
[Careers](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Agency Transition Team Activities

The Agency's Transition Team is working on the implementation of several key initiatives, including the continued development of the Agency's governance, accountability and administrative structures and policies. Its current, major focus is working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on plans and agreements necessary for the proposed transfer of the Ontario Public Health Laboratories to the Agency later this year involving over 600 staff and 12 locations. It is also addressing longer-term initiatives such as knowledge exchange, technology, and facilities planning and the ongoing relationship between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Agency.



The Transition Team, which is supporting the incoming President and CEO with Agency start up, is headed up by Kathryn Bouey.

Kathryn is a former Deputy Minister of the Management Board Secretariat and has also held the position of Chief Administrative Officer at the Ministry of Health. Last year, she led the Transition Team to establish the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, chaired by Jeff Lozon. She is a board member of St. Joseph's Health Centre, Sheridan College and Hydro One.

The Transition Team consists of leads in several key areas: governance, laboratory planning; finance; human resources and change management; facilities; and, knowledge management and Information technology.



As well, in advance of Vivek Goel's July 1, 2008 start date, Natalie Early has been appointed Director of the Office of the President. Natalie is the former Manager of MOHLTC's Agency Implementation Project to establish the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. Prior to that, she led Corporate Services Units in the Health System Strategy Division (MOHLTC), and the Ontario Victim Services Secretariat, Ministry of the Attorney General. Natalie joined the OPS after 17 years of service at the municipal level starting with the former Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, and after amalgamation, the City of Toronto.

The Agency is currently located at 415 Yonge Street, Suite 1600 and interim space has been secured at 480 University Avenue for the fall of 2008. Eventually, the plan is to locate the Agency headquarters in state-of-the-art facilities in downtown Toronto.



For more information please call 416-314-5188.



[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified:



Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

[Home](#)[What's New?](#)[News Releases](#)[Health Bulletins](#)[Board of Directors](#)[President and CEO](#)[About Us](#)[Frequently Asked
Questions \(FAQs\)](#)[Fact Sheet \[PDF\]](#)[Reports and Resources](#)[Careers](#)[Contact Us](#)

Recruitment Update

The Agency is recruiting founding leaders with the experience, global connections and vision to inspire and attract top-level talent. Recruitment is well underway for the Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer and three direct reports: Chief Financial Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer and Chief Information Officer.

The position profiles were completed and posted on the Knightsbridge and Agency web sites, appeared in the National Edition of the Globe and Mail, posted in the Ontario Health Promotion E-Bulletin and were included in the Longwoods e-Letter, circulated to the CCHSE membership. The Agency is planning to complete interviews for the Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer by the end of June, to enable the successful candidate to participate in interviews to select his or her senior leadership team, which will likely take place in July.

The Agency recently launched the next wave of recruitment. The following positions appeared in the June 25 issue of the Globe and Mail: Vice President of Knowledge Exchange and Communications and the following Directors:

- Knowledge Exchange
- Infectious Disease Prevention and Control
- Surveillance and Epidemiology
- Health Promotion, Chronic Diseases and Injury Prevention
- Research
- Occupational and Environmental Health
- Emergency Management Support

In order to maximize and support the professional capital and expertise that exists within the Province, in time, the Agency will have a staffing mix that combines full-time staff (to ensure leadership and continuity), with a variety of arrangements (part-time staff, affiliate scientists/researchers and cross appointments) that provide access to relevant disciplines while maintaining the strength and integrity of existing institutions.

We will keep you posted as new developments occur.

For more information please call 416-314-5188.

[TOP](#)

[home](#)

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2007 | Last Modified: