

The Exchange

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The Exchange is a monthly e-newsletter containing news and information about services supporting applied research, program evaluation, education, professional development and knowledge exchange in public health. More information is available at [Public Health Ontario](http://PublicHealthOntario).

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LDCP Project Ideas Selected

On Thursday, June 16, 2011, 69 representatives from 31 health units and two other public health stakeholders came together for the second locally driven collaborative projects (LDCP) workshop, *Moving from Possibilities to Topics*. The workshop participants broke into subject area groups to work through a series of priority setting activities to select one project idea to develop into a LDCP. The selected project ideas were:

- **Built Environment** - What are the best indicators to measure the built environment and demonstrate the relationship to health risk/protective factors at the community level?
- **Falls** - How does public health engage health and non-health sectors in strategies for preventing seniors' falls?
- **Food** - How can we build, promote, and

evaluate food skills in a wide range of community contexts?

- **Parenting** - Across the development continuum, which child health indicators are available, relevant, reliable, and valid?
- **Unsafe Behaviours** - What are the evidence-based strategies and tools to measure and build resiliency among youth?
- **Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System** - Conduct an external evaluation of the 2011 RRFSS Provincial Sample Pilot Project.

The third LDCP workshop will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2011 in Toronto. The focus of the workshop will be to further refine and narrow down the scope of the project ideas identified in Workshop 2 and begin creating a proposal. If you are interested in pursuing one of these project ideas further, please send an email to LDCP@oahpp.ca. For more information check the [LDCP](#) section of the website.

Career Opportunity in Research and Ethics

Public Health Ontario (PHO) is hiring a Research Facilitator who will be an integral member of the Research and Ethics Team and will work in close collaboration with a Knowledge Exchange Specialist to provide support to health units, researchers, community partners, and other stakeholders working on locally driven collaborative projects. For more information or to apply, please visit the [Careers](#) section of our website.

Ethics Discussion Paper Available for Feedback

Since last fall, two PHO working groups, in consultation with public health practitioners, have been developing a service model to provide ethics review and support for public health. The planning and implementation working group is developing a suite of services to provide ethics review and support

to health units and PHO for a range of public health projects, including research, program evaluation, surveillance, and quality improvement.

The conceptual framework working group has developed a framework to guide ethical review of projects from a public health perspective. A [discussion paper](#) describing the conceptual framework for guiding the ethical review of public health projects is now available for review and comment. Your feedback is welcome. Please send your comments to nancy.ondrusek@oahpp.ca by July 29, 2011. More information about [ethics support](#) is available on the website.

SPEP Report Identifies Priorities

The Findings Report: Key Informant Survey, Student Education and Preceptorship is complete. The report highlights key priorities identified by representatives from 32 health units regarding student placements and preceptorships. Highlights include:

- Preceptor and student resources and tools should be web-based, centralized, evidence-based, and easily accessible.
- Creation of preceptor training resources such as teaching strategies for preceptors and strategies to help preceptors balance their workload along with student commitments.
- A centralized system with consistent policies and processes for student placement coordination.
- Preceptor acknowledgement/recognition program.
- Collaboration across health units to share resources and reduce duplication.
- Capacity to coordinate student placements; create and disseminate resources, develop student policies and provide training.
- A tracking system or database to track numbers of student placement requests and numbers of student placements.

The need for preceptor and student resources and tools was identified as a priority by the [SPEP Network](#) for this year. Work has begun to review, catalogue, and reference existing preceptor and student

resources and tools. Stay tuned for a list of resources and tools that will be available to all health units in the fall.

Developing an Inventory of Public Health Activities and Peer Experts

Where can you go to...

- Identify programs or initiatives similar to the one you are working on?
- Find a validated evaluation tool that can be adapted to your needs?
- Be recognized for your expertise in a specific area?

Ontario public health professionals value knowledge exchange amongst colleagues and peers. We have a culture of sharing information but lack a central repository to facilitate awareness and accessibility of public health knowledge, which is an important part of knowledge exchange.

PHO's new program to support applied research, program evaluation, education, professional development and [knowledge exchange](#) in public health aims to bridge knowledge silos in order to facilitate collaboration and capitalize on the breadth of knowledge in Ontario's public health system. For this reason, an *Inventory of Public Health Activities and Peer Experts* (a.k.a. '*The Inventory*') is being developed. It is intended that *The Inventory* will become a useful knowledge exchange tool for Ontario public health professionals.

Until October 2011, the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies will design and develop *The Inventory* under the guidance of a 12-member Project Reference Group (PRG). The work plan involves development of an inventory framework (categories, definitions, and criteria), a consultation plan, a communications plan, and a data collection plan.

We will be piloting data collection procedures in three health units this summer. This is an opportunity to help shape the eventual format of *The Inventory*. If your health unit is interested in participating, please

contact Dayna Albert dalbert@opha.on.ca or Linda Stewart Linda@alphaweb.org.

Virtual Library Training Coming Soon

A half-day training session on the Virtual Library for staff of health units without a library is currently under development. This training session will be delivered on-site at qualified health units by a public health librarian during the summer and fall. More details about the content and scheduling will be sent to health units soon. The session is being developed in partnership with the Ontario Public Health Libraries Association. It will also be made available electronically to health units with libraries. More information about [Library Services](#) is available on the website.

Contact Us

If you would like more information about the services supporting applied research, program evaluation, education, professional development and knowledge exchange in public health, or to receive this regular e-update, please contact us at feedback@oahpp.ca. Program updates are also posted on our [website](#).

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