



URBAN PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK  
RÉSEAU CANADIEN POUR LA SANTÉ URBAINE

November 22, 2006

SECRETARIAT:  
DR GERRY PREDY  
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Elinor Wilson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Public Health Association  
400 - 1565 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa ON, Canada K1Z 8R1

**Re: Public Health Indicator Development**

Dear Elinor:

The Urban Public Health Network met October 16-18 in Toronto and discussed progress to date by several of our sub-groups. One of these groups is working to develop a common set of Public Health indicators for "an equivalent to wait time for public health services in Canada". As they have discussed this topic, they have also articulated the need for standardized indicators for use in public health in the areas of health status, health outcomes, and for quality improvement.

The working group has identified several groups and stakeholders who are working in the area of indicator development. It seems that what is lacking is a co-ordinating body or a group representing local public health agency needs to convene a small meeting of these stakeholders to sort out the roles that could be played by each of these groups to minimize duplication or effort, and ensure all areas are being covered. We would like to suggest that CPHA play a coordinating role for these groups by organizing a one-time meeting that would chart progress and set goals. We would be pleased to work with you in identifying the short list of players that could be invited to such a meeting, and plan with you a forum that might be well suited to such an event (perhaps attached on to another meeting where many of these players would be present).

While we recognize that CPHA may not see their role as an agency to develop indicators, we feel that indicator development needs to meet local public health provider needs, and not only provincial and federal reporting needs. As Canada's Association of public health workers and partners, we feel you may be perceived by the other stakeholders as a more neutral party, and could legitimately call for such a meeting.

Please let me know if you would see this as a role that CPHA could play in Canada.

Sincerely,

G. Predy, MD, FRCPC



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