



URBAN PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK

RÉSEAU CANADIEN POUR LA SANTÉ URBAINE

SECRETARIAT:

April 28, 2008

DR GERRY PREDY

CAPITAL HEALTH

SUITE 300

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Dr. Jamie Hockin
Director, Professional Development Division
Public Health Agency of Canada
130 Colonnade Road A.L. 6503B
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Dr. Hockin:

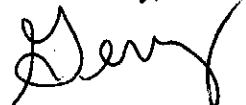
Thank you for taking the time to meet with us at our Victoria meeting. Your update on public health initiatives within the Public Health Agency of Canada served to identify some potential areas for collaboration with PHAC.

One of the key areas in which the Urban Public Health Network is looking for assistance and support is in the area of shortages in the public health workforce. All across Canada lack of medical officers of health, public health nurses and environmental health officers are compromising the ability of regions to deliver public health programs. There is also a mis-match between the training provided in the Schools of Public Health and the skill sets needed in the public health workforce. One recommendation is that every effort be made to increase the number of training spaces at universities and colleges as well as increasing the availability of on-line training through the Skills Enhancement Programs. UPHN members highly recommended that this issue be part of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's report to Parliament in the fall.

Another area in which we seek your assistance is in communication to local health regions. Members indicated unanimously that communication directly from PHAC to regions would be the preferred route as little or no information is passed on from provincial/territorial levels. Several cities have begun communicating on a regular basis with local branches of PHAC and will continue to do so.

Thank you again for sharing your time with us and we look forward to your response as well as continued collaboration with PHAC on many public health issues.

Yours sincerely,



G. Predy, MD, FRCPC

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