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Inside CDPAC

Happy Spring, readers! What seemed like an endless winter has finally given way to beautiful weather in most parts of the country. And so we begin a new season, and with that, change. There is a lot to cover in this edition of Newsbytes, as it seems there is no slowing for CDPAC and our partners. We have some announcements and updates to share as we move forward into another busy year, so take a few minutes to relax and get up-to-date with us.

Obesity and the Impact of Marketing on Children – Next Steps

The CDPAC Steering Committee is pleased to announce it has endorsed the final statement that calls for a “made in Canada” plan to ensure that unhealthy foods and beverages are not marketed to children, and is currently drafting a position statement in an effort to move this initiative forward. The full statement can be [read](#) on the CDPAC website.

Also, CDPAC is pleased to be a further collaborating partner in research to understand the impact of marketing to children. Monique Potvin Kent, a PhD candidate in Population Health at the University of Ottawa, will be directing a new research study that will examine the habits of children in grades 3 to 6 in the National Capital Region.



CDPAC's 3rd National Conference



Planning for the conference is gaining momentum. We are pleased to announce that registration is open, and already people have taken advantage of the early bird registration. Go online and [register](#) today for discounted registration.

Abstracts have been received, and the conference program is taking shape. CDPAC is excited about the speakers and presenters already confirmed. Among the national and international list of experts will be **Ken Judge**, who will be our opening presenter and talk about the European perspective on intervention and policy findings from the Eurothine project and discuss the health inequalities. As well, **Dr. Cordell Neudorf** will speak to the CIHI pan-Canadian report on how health, varies in neighbourhoods with different socioeconomic characteristics in and between Canadian cities. Closing remarks will be **Senator Dr. Wilbert Keon**. Senator Keon is the Senate Subcommittee on Population Health Chair and one of Canada's pre-eminent surgeons. He will be addressing the various Senate Subcommittee's reports on the determinants of health.

The conference will also look at the issue of poverty and, with delegates, decide on an action to take together.

The third national conference, titled "Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention – Taking Action Together", will be held in Ottawa at the Westin Hotel, November 24-26, 2008. Please check the [website](#) often for updates.

Senate Committee on Population Health Reports

Standing Committee on Social Affairs,
Science and Technology

The Senate Subcommittee on Population Health has released its fourth interim reports identifying policy options to improve population health in Canada. The Subcommittee has launched a consultation phase that encourages Canadians to have their input. Visit their website to have your say. Written consultations are due by **June 30, 2008**.

CDPAC will be making a submission with the support from Newfoundland Wellness Council, British Columbia Healthy Living Alliance, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The submission will be available for review in June, at www.cdpac.ca.

Fourth Report: Tenth Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science & Technology, which deals with: **Population Health Policy: Issues And Options**

CDPAC Initiatives

Poverty and Chronic Disease Prevention: Recommendations for Action

Over the last year, CDPAC members identified collaborative actions to understand and address poverty as a strategy to reduce the burden of chronic diseases. CDPAC, with support from Dietitians of Canada, has developed a position statement on addressing [income-related food security](#) (Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, 2007a), as well as a background paper on the status of the [National Child Tax Supplement](#) across Canada (Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, 2007b). In addition, CDPAC released a [Call to Action](#) following its 2006 *Building It Together* Conference, calling on Canada to first focus on needs of children in poverty and Aboriginal populations (Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, 2006).

Now, there are many opportunities in 2008 for CDPAC and its network to call for action on poverty. Numerous reports on inequalities in health will be released in 2008, including reports from the Senate Subcommittee on Population Health (see previous item), the Chief Public Health Officer's annual report, the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, and a report on urban health and socioeconomic status from the Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI). Key events, including the Canadian Public Health Association conference in June 2008, will also focus on inequalities in health.

This month, the CDPAC Steering Committee approved a brief that outlines policy priorities at the provincial and territorial level with common messaging for when these various reports are released. It outlines the evidence linking poverty and chronic disease, followed by recommendations for action at the federal, provincial/territorial and program levels, as well as for the voluntary sector. We invite you to read it on our website and use the information to strengthen and support your initiatives.

Knowledge Exchange Report Update

In 2007, CDPAC received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to conduct an environmental scan that would examine how it could enhance capacity for collaborative knowledge exchange within CDPAC and its members.

This report presents an overview of how the project was undertaken, summarizes the results of the multi-stage consultation process, and outlines a series of recommendations designed to move CDPAC's knowledge exchange activities forward. Long-term outcomes of the project will include the development and piloting of web-based tools to enable CDPAC members to interact, collaborate and exchange knowledge and best practices in chronic disease prevention. We invite you to read the [full report](#), available on the CDPAC website.



Partner News

Mental Health Commission of Canada Promised \$110 Million to Help Homeless

In February, Michael Kirby, Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC), today expressed the Commission's appreciation to the Prime Minister, announced the federal government promising \$110 million to the MHCC for research projects to help Canadians with mental illness who are homeless. A high percentage of homeless people in Canada have mental health problems.

"Very little is known about the most effective ways of providing services to people living with mental illness who are homeless," said Mr. Kirby. "What they require is a complex basket of services including supportive housing, access to primary health care and a wide range of other supports."

The Commission will set up five demonstration research projects across Canada. Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Moncton have been selected as sites for the research programs. Each project will focus on a distinct group of homeless people living with mental illness such as those who also have a substance abuse problem, Aboriginal Canadians and non-English speaking new immigrants. The demonstration projects will run simultaneously over a four year period.



In motion Manulife National Physical Activity Institute

This national institute will bring together delegates from across Canada in the fields of health, recreation, sport, education and research who work in the physical activity health promotion fields. The goal is to build on the extremely successful inaugural 2006 *in motion* institute. The focus of the 2008 institute, based on delegates feedback, will be on providing resources and tools that can be utilized to mobilize populations to be more physically active for health benefits.

Don't miss this opportunity to attend this exciting physical activity health institute! If you would like to receive more information regarding the summer institute, or would like to register, please visit the *in motion* institute web site at: www.canadainmotion.ca

PHAC Healthy Living E-bulletin

The second Healthy Living E-bulletin was launched on March 14, 2008 with a focus on populations in isolated, remote and rural areas:
http://dev.phac-aspc.gc.ca/phac-aspc/hl-vs-strat/e-bulletin_e.html

The E-bulletin is a quarterly newsletter designed to keep healthy living stakeholders informed on efforts to promote physical activity, healthy eating and healthy weights across the country. It is produced by the Public Health Agency of Canada on behalf of the Healthy Living Issue Group of the Intersectoral Healthy Living Network.



Phase II of the Canadian Best Practices Portal for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

The Canadian Best Practices Initiative (CBPI) launched the Canadian Best Practices Portal (CBPP) for Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention (<http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca>) in November 2006 at the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (CDPAC) 2nd National Conference. The CBPP was the first product in the CBPI's efforts to increase access to chronic disease prevention and health promotion evidence. The CBPP is a virtual front door to an array of online best practices in health promotion and chronic disease prevention and will soon incorporate practices that extend beyond the category of "best".



The CBPI will be revealing the next version of the Portal, Phase II, during the 2008 National Conference on November 24-26, 2008 in Ottawa. This will be a great opportunity for conference delegates to get a first view of the new portal, and get an opportunity to "test drive" its new features.

CPHI Releases Review on Urban Health and Healthy Weights

The Canadian Population Health Initiative (CPHI) released their State of the Evidence Review on Urban Health and Healthy Weights. This systematic review synthesizes the evidence on:

- structural and community-level characteristics of urban environments that promote or inhibit the achievement of healthy weights, and,
- effectiveness of interventions to assist urban populations in achieving healthy weights.

The report synthesizes findings addressing four outcome areas (obesity/healthy weights, food/diet/nutrition, physical activity and sedentary behaviour) in relation to physical, economic, political and socio-cultural environments. Urban design, food affordability, school policies and media/advertising are just a few examples of characteristics of urban environments included in the review. [View](#) the full report.





CDPAC Staffing News

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Bonnie Hostrawser, CDPAC Executive Director and Janelle Witzel, Project Manager. We are very happy that they are pursuing new challenges, but will truly miss their amazing presence around CDPAC.

Bonnie Hostrawser is the founding executive director of CDPAC. She came to this role with extensive experience in the voluntary sector, working at the community, provincial and national levels leading change on prevention issues specifically violence and injury prevention, sexual health and chronic disease prevention. Bonnie is the proud mother of two young boys, and is completing a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Waterloo

Janelle Witzel came to CDPAC in December 2007 as a Project Manager. She laid the groundwork for CDPAC's 3rd National Conference and oversaw the Communities of Practice and Knowledge Exchange project, to name just a few. Janelle is now off touring exotic locations, and will be returning to Toronto to finish her graduate studies in Public Health and pursue her career. Thank you for your contributions to the organization, and best of luck in your new endeavors!

Upcoming Events

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| 2008 National Conference on Collaborative Mental Health Care | May 15-17 |
| Canadian Council on Social Development – Canadian Social Forum | May 19-22 |
| Queen's University 8th Annual National Forum Public Policy and the Third Sector Initiative | May 23-24 |
| CPHA Annual Conference | June 1-4 |
| Dietitians of Canada Annual Conference | June 12-14 |
| 2008 <i>in motion</i> Manulife National Physical Activity Institute | June 23-25 |

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