

Decision-Makers for Public Health Nutrition Professionals: Benefits of Membership in the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health

Management at all levels, from supervisors to Medical Officers of Health, are urged to support and encourage OSNPPH involvement for the many benefits to public health nutritionists and dietitians, their health units and the health of Ontarians.

OSNPPH is the “SPINE” of Public Health Nutrition in Ontario!

Skills Enhancement

- OSNPPH offers numerous opportunities (such as workgroups, committees, and participation on the executive) for members to develop as leaders and to build or enhance skills such as planning, communication and advocacy.

Peer Support

- Being part of OSNPPH offers members opportunities for greater understanding, resource sharing, networking, synergy and impact, which is especially important given the small number of nutrition professionals within many public health units and the diversity of public health nutrition roles.
- Those new to public health practice can build competence by connecting with experienced OSNPPH practitioners.

Through OSNPPH we are able to collaborate to inform healthy public policy at the provincial and federal levels more easily than if we worked in isolation within our own health units. Sharing resources and developing programs through the topic-specific workgroups is much more efficient and effective. OSNPPH colleagues nourish my passion for nutrition and sustain my conviction that our efforts and contributions are vital to public health in Ontario.

*Carolyn Froats-Emond, RD, Renfrew County and District Health Unit
School Nutrition Workgroup Chair, 2008-present; past
Executive Chair 2001-2002 and 2002-2003*

As a new Public Health Dietitian being a member of OSNPPH has been extremely valuable. I have enjoyed having access to the listserve and networking with experienced Public Health Dietitians and Nutritionists across the province. I look forward to attending my first Nutrition Exchange in May and putting faces to the many names who have helped me begin my career in Public Health. Thank you OSNPPH!

*Megan Bale, RD
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit*

Impact

- OSNPPH advocacy has influenced key decision-makers and made significant impact on public health nutrition issues at the local, regional, provincial, and national levels.
- OSNPPH is increasingly recognized and approached as an important stakeholder in provincial and federal nutrition initiatives.

Networking and Knowledge Exchange

- OSNPPH generates and disseminates information that is specific and key to public health nutrition practice. OSNPPH members can access this information quickly and easily for timely and informed responses.
- Members-only benefits include:
 - ✓ Access to an active and informative listserv as well as the members' side of the website that includes a directory allowing members to make useful contacts
 - ✓ Opportunities to be involved in the School Nutrition Workgroup, the Family Health Nutrition Advisory Group and the Advocacy Committee
 - ✓ Member-rate for the annual Nutrition Exchange conference which facilitates continuing education, face-to-face sharing and dialogue among members.

I am impressed with the importance and the overall quality of the work of OSNPPH, and as a Medical Officer of Health I support and encourage the public health nutritionists / registered dietitians in my health unit to participate in its executive, committees and working groups. I have attended a Nutrition Exchange conference when hosted in Simcoe Muskoka and was impressed by the educational content and by the professional support of OSNPPH for its membership.

*Dr. Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHS, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief
Executive Officer, Simcoe Muskoka District
Health Unit*

Interdisciplinary practice requires strong, well-informed disciplines. OSNPPH provides that strong discipline-specific perspective on public health issues and is an important voice to bring forward healthy public policy issues related to nutrition to a broader public health audience.

*Connie Uetrecht, Executive Director
Ontario Public Health Association*

Effectiveness

- Members share in opportunities and resources that optimize both individual and collective work. Information-sharing and collaboration is enhanced through OSNPPH liaisons with other health professional groups and organizations.
- Membership fosters collaboration, maximization of reach, and avoids duplication of resources and efforts, ultimately saving individual health units time and money.

As decision-makers, you can play a major role in realizing these benefits by promoting and supporting nutrition professionals in public health to be active members in OSNPPH.

Who and What is OSNPPH?

OSNPPH members are nutrition professionals engaged in public health practice. All are required to be Registered Dietitians (RDs) through membership in the College of Dietitians of Ontario. Members are food and nutrition experts who apply evidence-based population-wide strategies to promote healthy growth and development and prevention of chronic diseases. Members work in the public health sector or in universities with community nutrition programs.



La société ontarienne des professionnel(le)s
de la nutrition en santé publique