

December 18, 2008

Myra Stephen
Education Officer
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
Ministry of Education
16th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Ms. Stephen;

We are writing to respond to and thank you for your invitation to provide feedback regarding the proposed revisions to the Ontario Curriculum, Health and Physical Education, Grades 1-12 (November 2008).

Dietitians of Canada (DC), the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) and the Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA) have worked collectively on this response. As unique groups representing nutrition professionals and key non-government organizations working in the province of Ontario [*see appendix for description of each group and membership*] we have a vested interest in the Ontario curriculum's proposed nutrition competencies, learning expectations and outcomes for healthy eating and nutrition, for all elementary and secondary grades.

The focus of the DC, OSNPPH and OCGHEPA review of the draft H&PE curriculum is specific to the healthy eating content of the curriculum and as such, we would like to support the joint submission from Ophea (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association) and OASPHE (Ontario Association for the Supervision of Physical and Health Education) and the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition which addresses the entire curriculum.

We truly appreciate previous opportunities your Ministry has given us to shape the curriculum by participating in stakeholder focus groups and formal submissions. We are however, disappointed that Registered Dietitians were not actively involved in writing the revisions for the new Health and Physical Education curriculum. Our comprehensive review is based on the synthesis of research, theory and current practices that set the standards for the healthy eating and nutrition curriculum to align with national healthy eating guidelines (e.g., Canada's Food Guide) and comprehensive school health. We have considered the need to address timely nutrition concerns (e.g., purchasing local foods) while also maintaining flexibility to adjust for changes in the food production system over time. As a result, we have identified some significant gaps and concerns with the content and have spent extensive time to address these.

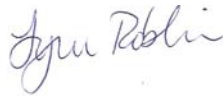
In the attached documents, we have provided the following:

1. Recommendations for the Proposed Health and Physical Education Curriculum
2. Proposed Healthy Eating and Nutrition Scope and Sequence Chart
3. Proposed Revisions to the Grade 1-12 Healthy Living Expectations

We acknowledge that it is late in the curriculum review process to provide such extensive feedback, but we feel very strongly that you consider this comprehensive review and incorporate our recommendations into the curriculum revisions. We are eager to assist with revision writing and facts checking to ensure integrity of the healthy eating and nutrition content area. We trust that you will thoughtfully consider our recommendations and contact us if you should need clarification.

Thank you again for the opportunity to ensure that students gain fundamental healthy eating and nutrition information and practical skills through the Ontario Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

Sincerely,



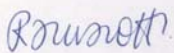
Lynn Roblin, representing Dietitians of Canada



Michelle Hurd Co-Chair, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health



Barbara Bartle Co-Chair, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health



Rebecca Truscott, representing the Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

cc. Deborah Courville, Education Officer, Curriculum and Assessment
Policy Branch, Ministry of Education
Linda Dietrich, Dietitians of Canada, Regional Executive Director
Central and Southern Ontario
Leslie Whittington Carter, Dietitians of Canada, Government
Relations

APPENDIX

Dietitians of Canada (DC) is the professional association representing Dietitians nationally and provincially. With over 3000 Registered Dietitians in Ontario our members take an active role in many sectors of health service delivery including public health units, community health centres, family health teams, outpatient clinics, community organizations, food industry, media/public relations, and private practice. Many of our members work directly with children and schools both in their professional careers and as volunteers.

Contact: Lynn Roblin, Registered Dietitian – 905 338 6214 or Linda Dietrich, Dietitians of Canada, Regional Executive Director Central and Southern Ontario, Tel 905-471-7314

Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians in public health. The society's mission is to provide a leadership forum and official voice for public health nutrition practice in Ontario. OSNPPH is constituent society of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

OSNPPH members are Registered Dietitians (RDs) and members of the College of Dietitians of Ontario. All members work in the public health sector or universities with community related nutrition programs. Our members are experts in human nutrition who focus on improving health and preventing disease. With community health partners, they raise awareness about healthy eating at every stage of life. They plan, coordinate, deliver and evaluate education and skill building nutrition programs. Public Health nutrition professionals also advocate and support healthy eating environments.

Contact: Carolyn Froats Emond, Registered Dietitian and Chair of OSNPPH School Nutrition Workgroup – 613-735-8651 ext. 544 or Lucy Valteau, Registered Dietitian – 905-895-4512 ext. 4332

The **Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity (OCGHEPA)** is an umbrella group made up of diverse professionals who meet to advocate for comprehensive approaches to addressing the individual, cultural, social, economic and environmental determinants of healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weights using a population-based approach. The Group is committed to using best available evidence to inform its activities and to engaging in monitoring and evaluation.

Contact: Rebecca Truscott, Registered Dietitian – 416-971-9800 ext. 3243 or Stephanie Murray, Sr. Coordinator Public Issues, Canadian Cancer Society – 416-488-5402