



Ontario Society of Nutrition  
Professionals in Public Health

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

c/o Ontario Public Health Association  
700 Lawrence Ave. West, Suite 310  
Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B4

November 26, 2007

Dr. Robert Washburn  
Chair, Annual Scientific Assembly Committee  
Ontario College of Family Physicians  
357 Bay Street, Mezzanine Level  
Toronto, ON M5H 2T7  
[ocfp@cfpc.ca](mailto:ocfp@cfpc.ca)

Dear Dr. Washburn,

We are writing to express our sincere appreciation of the Ontario College of Family Physicians' actions to address our letter of concern dated Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Your organization went above and beyond our expectations to respond in an expedient manner. We also gratefully acknowledge Dr. Freedhoff for his willingness to share the time originally allocated for his session in order to accommodate a panel-type presentation. On behalf of the membership of OSNPPH and the OCGHEPA, we thank you for your efforts.

OSNPPH and OCGHEPA hold strongly that opinions should be voiced in the context of balanced perspectives so that the audience is able to critically analyze varying view points and determine for themselves the best messages to convey to their patients.

Our organizations, along with all major health organizations in Canada and all provincial and local health authorities, recognize Health Canada as an authoritative source of evidence-based nutrition information for over 70 years. Collectively, we have confidence that the approach implemented by Health Canada in the development of *Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide* as documented on their web site was transparent and open whereby *all* stakeholders' input, including that of OSNPPH, was sought and considered in the process.

We respectfully urge the Ontario College of Family Physicians to continue to offer presentation modes that will facilitate the sharing of multi-disciplinary views on healthy eating topics for future professional development events.

Sincerely,

*Sent via e-mail*

**Tara Brown, MHSc, RD**  
Chair, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health

**Erica Di Ruggiero, MHSc, RD**  
Chair, Ontario Collaborative Group for Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

cc: Dr. Danielle Brule, Director, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, Health Canada  
Roselle Martino, Senior Nutrition Consultant (A), Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion

Connie Utrecht, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association  
Dr. Charles Gardner, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health  
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Dr. Yoni Freedhoff, Medical Director, Bariatric Medical Institute, Ottawa  
Dr. Kendall Noel, Scientific Chair, 2007 Annual Scientific Assembly Committee, Ontario College of Family Physicians