

SECTION 1: WHAT'S NEW?

Canada

- Manitoba's new guidelines for local governments on pandemic outbreaks includes school boards in the regional planning teams: www.gov.mb.ca/health/documents/pandemic_influenza.pdf
- Manitoba's healthy food in schools initiative include policy guidelines, school handbook and educational resources: www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/index.html
- Nunavut launches its Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative with funds from the Health Canada strategy: www.gov.nu.ca/Nunavut/English/news/2006/sept/sept6.pdf
- Quebec published study on school role in providing day care services (in French): www.cfe.gouv.qc.ca/publications/pdf/etude_projet_educatif_partage.pdf
- Safe School Surveys: The CPHA Assessment Toolkit for Bullying, Harassment and Peer Relations at School provides a survey, standards for quality programs, and a common set of tools to assess the impact of school-based programs: www.cpha.ca/antibullying/

International

- The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on Progress in Preventing Childhood Obesity report, *Progress in Preventing Childhood Obesity: How Do We Measure Up?*, examines the progress made by obesity prevention initiatives in the United States over the past two years. The report builds on the IOM's 2005 report, *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*: www.iom.edu/?id=25861
- Several UN agencies have formed a committee to provide advice to countries on how schools can promote health, learning and development. The International School Health Network is represented on the committee by Doug McCall. More info from him at dmccall@cash-aces.ca

SECTION 2: RESEARCH, REPORTS & SH KNOWLEDGE

- **Major US Education Report Favours School Health**
A new report on the Whole Child, *All Together Now*, explains why schools and communities must work together to help all young people succeed. (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; July, 2006): www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/sharingresponsibility.pdf
- **International Practice Guidelines on School Health**
The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) *Protocols and Guidelines for Health Promoting Schools* (2006): www.chdf.org.au/i-cms_file?page=3/GuidelinesProtocolsHPS.pdf
- **WHO Europe Research Review on School Health**
Stewart-Brown, S. (2006). *What is the evidence on school health promotion in improving health or preventing disease and, specifically, what is the effectiveness of the health promoting schools approach?* Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe: www.euro.who.int/Document/E88185.pdf

- **Studies Connect Health & Educational Achievement**

Selected studies and reports on the connection between health and learning: compiled for the Health and Learning Knowledge Centre of the CCL: www.healthandlearning.ca/index.asp?Page=Studies_Reports

- **Quebec Review Includes Health as Factor in Learning**

A recent report on the factors that favour learning include several items that relate to school health promotion. www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/DFGA/politique/fecre/facteurs/pdf/revuecommentee.pdf

- **Two Key Reports on Mental Health in Schools**

Two key reports have shown that school climate can affect a number of risk behaviours:

- Blum, R.W., McNeely, C.A., Rinehart, P.M. (2002) . *Improving the Odds: The Untapped Power of Schools to Improve the Health of Teens* Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, Department of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. www.allaboutkids.umn.edu/presskit/connectmono.pdf
- Patton, G., Bond, L., Carlin, J., Thomas, L., Butler, H., Glover, S., Catalano, R., Bowes, G. (2006). Promoting social inclusion in schools: A group-randomized trial on student health risk behaviour and well-being. *American Journal of Public Health*, 96, 9 pp 1582-7

SECTION 3: FEATURE ARTICLE

School Health in Canada: An Update

Canada has been making rapid progress in developing its capacity to promote the health, development and learning of children and youth through comprehensive school health programs. The following highlights some of the key school health related efforts underway in Canada:

Canadian School Health Knowledge Network (www.safehealthyschools.org/CSH_Knowledge_Network_Intro.htm)

The CSH Knowledge Network, funded in part by the Canadian Council on Learning's Health and Learning Knowledge Centre will serve to exchange knowledge about school health at the local, provincial/territorial, national and international levels and do so in a manner that builds on, supports and coordinates with existing infrastructures and activities. Its activities will include: a series of national knowledge exchange forums, telephone/web seminars, a bi-weekly school health report, a school health documentation centre and the third annual School Health Conference to be held in Vancouver, BC, June 7-9, 2007, in conjunction with the International Union of Health Promotion and Education (www.IUHPE.org) world conference.

Canadian School Health NGO Network (www.safehealthyschools.org/CSH_NGO_Network.htm - to be posted)

Over 35 national non-governmental organizations (NGO) are forming the CSH NGO Network that will be an effective advocacy and communications system at the national level. Activities of the network include: revising the Canadian Comprehensive School Health Consensus Statement (for the current version see: www.cash-aces.ca); advocating for a broad comprehensive approach between governments that address all issues that affect the health of children and youth and organizing periodic roundtable meetings with federal and national agencies to facilitate cooperation and communication. The CSH NGO Network is facilitated by the Canadian Association for School Health (www.cash-aces.ca), a network of provincial/territorial school health coalitions.

School Health Research Network (www.schoolhealthresearch.org)

This network brings together researchers, research agencies, practitioners and policy-makers in university-based initiatives such as the Canadian School Health Research Agenda, several recent research reviews and a web site that identifies and provides links to the major studies and research in school health promotion.

Health & Learning Knowledge Centre (www.healthandlearning.ca)

The Health and Learning Knowledge Centre (HLKC) is one of five centres funded by the Canadian Council on Learning (www.ccl-cca.ca). Based at the University of Victoria, the HLKC has many activities aimed at promoting the health and learning of Canadians of all ages. The primary role of the HLKC is to act as a knowledge broker by helping to make the connections between the health and learning sectors.

Some of the HLKC funded activities include:

- The development of the CSH Knowledge Network through its School Health Working Group
- A combined project of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (www.ctf-fce.ca), the Canadian Public Health Association (www.cpha.ca) and CASH will start Canada's first publications that will reach all schools and front-line public health workers in a teachers' magazine and regular inserts in the CPHA journals
- Two seminars, a consultation with provincial/territorial officials and analysis of the current data sources available on the health and learning of children and youth (See www.healthandlearning.ca)
- Documentation centres on settings-based promotion of health and learning. This includes the CSH Documentation Centre that will take over a collection of over 7000 SH documents. (www.safehealthyschools.org/CSH_Centre_Intro.htm)
- An international/national symposium on healthy communities and settings for health and learning, to be held at UVIC on June 3-5, 2007. This symposium will examine a recent book chapter on settings-based health promotion as well create/strengthen several international networks, including the International School Health Network (www.international-schoolhealth.org)
- Several literature reviews on specific issues and aspects of school health promotion, including topics such as social development, health literacy and systems change
- The second annual School Health Conference was held in May 2006 and attracted over 300 provincial and national delegates that examined long-term plans for school health as well as the prevention of chronic diseases. Presentations and more details can be found at www.healthandlearning.ca.

Additional Selected Canadian Initiatives & Resources of Interest:

- A series of Pan-Canadian environmental scans of school health related policies and programs has been undertaken with the support of the CCL, the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD), Sport Canada. Topics addressed in this series include: nutrition, tobacco use prevention, Aboriginal student health and schools; physical education/physical activity as well as school health in French. Most scans are available at www.healthandlearning.ca and for the PA/PE scan, please see www.cahperd.ca.
- The continuing interest and leadership of the Canadian Population Health Initiative of the Canadian Institute on Health Information (www.cihi.ca/cphi) in school health research has included a report and analysis of child and youth health, a major study on the impact of comprehensive physical activity and nutrition programs and other intervention research. The CPHI has also funded research on youth at risk and on settings-based health.

- The Public Health Agency of Canada (www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dca-dea/main_e.html) is initiating an informal committee of federal departments that are concerned with school health promotion. This committee has the potential to strengthen cooperation across federal structures. Canada is well represented in the development of an International School Health Network that brings together national school health associations, government officials and researchers to exchange and develop knowledge as well as inform policy-makers at the international level.
- The Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (www.cdpac.ca) is just one of the many voluntary coalitions that have identified children/youth and schools as a focus for their advocacy activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Canadian Teachers Federation (www.ctf-fce.ca) will be launching its new teacher magazine Health and Learning. The first issue will arrive in schools in December.
- Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada Conference: Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention: Building It Together: November 5-8, 2006, Ottawa, ON. For more info visit www.cdpac.ca.
- Healthy Schools...from paper to practice. Manitoba Agencies for School Health will host this event on November 23, 2006, in Winnipeg. For more info visit www.mpeta.ca/ASH.htm.
- The 19th International Union for Health Promotion and Education World Conference is calling for the submission of abstracts of papers, workshops, and symposia to be presented to the conference. For further details visit iuhpeconference.org and follow the links. The deadline is Friday, November 24, 2006.

STAYING IN TOUCH

We welcome your input on suggested topics addressed in the School Health Report, upcoming events and other information, innovations and initiatives that you have to share with your school health colleagues across Canada. Contact us at: info@cash-aces.ca