

November 3, 2010

Mrs. Meighan Finlay, Executive Director
Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation
3370 South Service Road Burlington, Ontario L7N 3M6

Dear Mrs Finlay,

The purpose of this letter is to request an opportunity to engage in conversation between Community Health Nurses Initiative Group (CHNIG) and Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA) regarding how we can collectively strengthen and integrate Public Health Nursing Competencies into accreditation for public health organizations.

Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada Release 1.0 defined the generic knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.¹ The Community Health Nurses of Canada have recently released *Public Health Nursing Discipline Specific Competencies*² These competencies establish the knowledge, skills, and judgment of public health nurses to enable them to work on strategies to improve individual and family health while addressing population health and having an impact at the community level.

The final report of the Ontario Capacity Review Committee recommended accreditation of public health units.³ The OCCHA plays an important role in this process. We urge the inclusion of the new Public Health Nursing competencies into the accreditation guidelines such as the '2009 Accreditation Principles, Standards and Components'. To facilitate the integration of the competencies into the accreditation guidelines CHNIG offers OCCHA our expertise.

Accreditation can demonstrate accountability, build public confidence and enhance visibility for public health units in Ontario. These essential components of public health nursing he will contribute greatly to quality in public health services.

Respectfully,



Katie Dilworth
President Community Health Nurses Initiative Group RNAO

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1. Public Health Agency of Canada. (2007) Core competencies for Public Health in Canada release 1.0 Available at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/core_competencies
 2. Community Health Nurses of Canada (2009). Public Health Nursing competencies. Available at: http://www.chnc.ca/documents/competencies_june_2009_english.pdf
 3. Capacity Review Committee (2006) Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity. Available at www.health.cob.on.ca/english/public/pup/ministry_reports/capacity_review05/capacity_review05.pdf