



Vision and Program Goals

PHRED's mission is:

"To provide leadership in research, education and development of best practices to inform and improve local, provincial and national public health policy and practice. The PHRED model integrates research, education, policy and practice."

PHRED logo was designed to profile this integration. The goals of the program are to:

- Provide evidence to support effective and efficient public health practice and improve accountability in public health practice.
- Increase capacity within the public health system by providing leadership in the education of future public health professionals.
- Provide leadership in research, knowledge exchange and education through strategic partnerships.

The PHRED functions of applied research, workforce development and knowledge exchange have supported practitioners and students in the science and art of public health. Foundational principles guiding the delivery of the program include working in partnership, engaging front line staff and program managers, and ensuring that knowledge exchange is an integral component of deliverables. Both applied research and evaluation projects have produced practical outcomes that have changed practice and contributed to policy development. PHRED personnel at the London, Hamilton, Kingston, Ottawa and Sudbury public health unit sites continue to influence the education of post-secondary students through student placements, classroom teaching, mentoring, thesis supervision and curriculum development.

In addition to working collaboratively across the five sites on provincial projects, each site also works with multiple academic and practice partners on other initiatives. The program has also served as a much needed incubator for applied public health researchers. The resulting cadre of researchers is recognized nationally and internationally and they have developed programs of applied public health research with successful grant and publishing records. Building on experiences gained through the PHRED Program, these researchers hold critical positions within the larger national public health system.

Major Provincial Achievements by Decade

1980s

- With the support of Dr. Fraser Mustard, a McMaster University team comprised of Dr. Larry Chambers, Dr. Susan French and Dr. Clyde Hertzman submitted the original proposal for a Teaching Health Unit to the Ontario Ministry of Health.
- Teaching Health Unit Program endorsed by the Ontario Ministry of Health following comprehensive evaluation of two pilot sites.
- Focused on establishing sites and building the program.

1990s

- Sponsored regional workshops across the province on “Leading a Learning Organization.”
- Explored the relevance of benchmarking to public health, supported benchmarking investigations and initiated development of www.benchmarking-publichealth.on.ca.
- Produced *Program Evaluation and Benchmarking Tool Kits*.
- Launched the *Effective Public Health Practice Project* (EPHPP) - summary statements and systematic reviews.
- The PHRED libraries (Sudbury, Kingston, London and Hamilton) created a shared online public access catalogue (OPAC), which continues today and is hosted by Sudbury.
- Initiated development of NutriSTEP®, which is now recognized as a scientifically validated preschool nutrition screening tool.

2000s

- Conducted numerous evaluations including: Impact of Benchmarking, Nurse Practitioner Cervical Screening Pilot, Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) Website, Provincial Coverage Survey of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program, Promoting Cancer Screening in Chinese Communities.
- Worked with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Public Health Branch and developed *Towards An Accountability Framework for Ontario Boards of Health: An Analysis of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines*.
- Released the *Report of the Health Status of the Residents of Ontario and the first ever provincial Francophone Health Status Report – Rapport sur la santé des Francophones de l’ Ontario*.
- Delivered regional workshops across the province on the provincial health status reports, EPHPP and benchmarking.
- Preceptor Reach and Teach Kit developed by the PHRED Connection.
- Produced the *Nursing Mentorship Resource Guide: Caring, Connecting, Empowering* in partnership with ANDSOOHA - Public Health Nursing Management.
- Initiated an annual PHRED Student Award presented at the OPHA conference.
- Served as the Program Committee for the 55th OPHA Annual Conference.
- Produced inserts for the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* on key topics such as Evidence-Based Decision-Making (Jan/Feb 2002) and Health Surveillance (May/June 2006).
- Participated in OPHA’s and later the PHAC’s Public Health Core Competencies Project.
- Developed an Evaluation Plan for Ontario’s Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living; conducted a variety of the evaluations including the evaluation of the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program; developed related RRFSS modules; and analyzed CCHS nutrition data.
- Co-host of the OPHA 2009 Annual Conference.

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