

# Public Health Research, Education & Development (PHRED) Program

## 2009 Provincial Work Plan

Presented to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,  
Public Health Division

City of Hamilton Public Health Services

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington  
Public Health

Middlesex-London Health Unit

Ottawa Public Health

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Contact information for all provincial PHRED Program sites is provided on page 12.

This work plan is also available on the PHRED Program website at: [www.phred-redsp.on.ca](http://www.phred-redsp.on.ca).

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## Introduction

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The Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program is a reliable source of information and expertise related to research, knowledge exchange, education and development to support public health practice. The PHRED Program serves as a bridge between public health practitioners and policy makers, and education/academia.

The PHRED Program operates in five Ontario health unit sites: Hamilton, Kingston, Middlesex-London, Ottawa and Sudbury. Its strength lies in its people – who possess a unique mix of academic and public health practice backgrounds – and their ability to build partnerships and relationships that facilitate generating and applying knowledge. The Program's roots extend back two decades having evolved from the teaching health units established by the Ministry of Health in 1983.

The purpose of the 2009 Work Plan is to describe the current projects in the areas of research, knowledge exchange, education and development. The provincial-level PHRED initiatives have a strategic focus this year to ensure that vital functions related to evidence-informed public health practice grow and become stronger as the public health system across the province is renewed.

In addition, the Work Plan documents a number of joint projects across the various PHRED sites and with additional public health partners. The Program selects each project for its relevance to current issues, its usefulness to and potential impact on local public health practice and provincial decision-making.

This document presents the provincial level initiatives first, followed by the joint initiatives organized according to key PHRED Program functions: Applied Public Health Research and Evaluation, Education and Development, Knowledge Exchange, Workforce Development and Core Competencies, and Performance Management.

All of these projects are relevant to the delivery of public health services across the province. They have implications for public health policy, practice, and the overall growth and development of the public health system at local and provincial levels.

With the 36 Ontario public health units implementing the newly revised Ontario Public Health Standards, we recognize that many projects led by the PHRED Program reflect the elements of the Foundational Standard including research, evaluation and knowledge exchange. This represents a unique and timely opportunity to bring forward many outcomes and lessons from this and previous years' work to support the delivery of public health across the province.



Isabelle Michel  
Chair, Provincial PHRED Operations Committee

## Goals

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The goals of the PHRED Program are to:

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

# Public Health Research, Education & Development (PHRED) Program 2009 Provincial Work Plan

## 1.0 Provincial Planning and Coordination

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
1.1 Provincial PHRED Secretariat	<b>SDHU</b> All PHRED Sites	<p>The PHRED Secretariat, under the direction of the PHRED Operations Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate an annual strategic planning process and create a strategic plan that then guides the annual budget cycle/work planning cycle.</li> <li>• Coordinate dissemination of lessons learned across all types of PHRED projects, regarding how to improve public health practice through research, evaluation, education and staff development, and about knowledge exchange in particular.</li> <li>• Facilitate Provincial PHRED Operations monthly, and special meetings.</li> <li>• Facilitate production and dissemination of regular internal newsletters to support communication with PHRED staff and PHRED Medical Officers of Health (MOHs).</li> <li>• Assist building external alliances as appropriate.</li> <li>• Prepare PHRED Steering Committee reports, annual work plan and deliverables report.</li> <li>• Undertake necessary research and prepare briefing notes on key issues as needed.</li> <li>• Coordinate and facilitate PHRED participation at conferences.</li> <li>• Manage all communications and maintain PHRED documentation and archives.</li> </ul>	Funded to end of March 2010

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
1.2 PHRED Communication Plan	<b>All PHRED Sites</b>	<p>Continue to provide relevant, credible, up-to-date information to public health practitioners through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PHRED representation on OPHA Board as a constituent society and links with other public health groups e.g. OSNPPH, Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO), ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing Management to facilitate communication about the utility of PHRED products and services.</li> <li>• Produce an annual account of PHRED activities for broad dissemination to relevant Ministries, academic and other partners, public health units and the field.</li> <li>• Visibility through articles in other organization newsletters.</li> <li>• Maintenance of PHRED website as access point for the field.</li> <li>• Development and submission of one manuscript for peer review publication re: the history of the PHRED program and contributions to Ontario's public health system.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
1.3 System Design and Renewal	<b>All PHRED Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to Public Health Renewal in Ontario as needed.</li> <li>• Provide leadership in public health research, program evaluation, knowledge exchange and education.</li> <li>• Work on OPHS guidance documents as appropriate.</li> <li>• Support to Provincial Performance Measurement Working Group.</li> <li>• Support local public health units in implementing the OPHS Foundational Standard by developing and/or promoting relevant tools and resources.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
1.4 Tri-partite Working Group	<b>SDHU</b> <b>MLHU</b> HPH KFL&A OPH MOHLTC OAHPP	PHRED Program representatives continue to meet with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and the Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to discuss the transfer of provincial PHRED funding and functions from the MOHLTC to the Agency. Work continues on the development of a conceptual description of an adapted Knowledge to Action (K2A) model.	December 31, 2009
1.5 Grant Opportunities	<b>SDHU</b>	This project contributes to enhanced awareness of funding opportunities, extension in scope and generalizability of research, and increased public health research activity. The funding updates are provided via email across all 36 health units to PHRED and non-PHRED epidemiologists, planners, researchers, and others upon request.	December 31, 2009

## 2.0 Applied Public Health Research and Evaluation

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
<b>2.1 PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS: Chronic Disease Prevention</b>			
2.1.1 Latino Families in Action: A Community-Based Obesity Intervention Program	<b>MLHU</b> Children's Hospital of Southwestern Ontario St. Joseph's Health Care London UWO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families in Action is a community-based obesity intervention program which offers a promising strategy for screening and engaging overweight Latino-Canadian children and their families.</li> <li>This research supports the Foundational Standard – research and knowledge exchange and other relevant program standards.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
2.1.2 Chronic Disease Prevention Network for Diverse Ethno-Cultural Communities: Physical Activity Promotion	<b>HPH</b>	Development of a series of interactive modules within a cultural competency framework designed to share and help develop best practices related to peer-professional partnerships, thereby strengthening core competencies of public health staff within the socio-cultural domain and the partnership, collaboration and advocacy domain.	March 31, 2009
2.1.3 Healthy & Active Preschooler Program – YMCA (HAPPY): Issues, Challenges, and Perspectives Regarding Physical Activity at Daycare	<b>MLHU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This research is designed to explore issues around the provision of physical activity in childcare facilities.</li> <li>Supports Foundational Standard – research and knowledge exchange and other relevant program standards.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
2.1.4 Locating Barriers and Supports to Risk Modification in Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)	<b>SDHU</b> <b>University of Toronto</b> Laurentian University University Health Network	This study is nested within the Community Outreach in Heart Health and Risk Reduction Trial (COHRT). This qualitative study strives to learn more about the experiences of COHRT or Cardiac Rehabilitation Program participants within 6 to 12 months after completing the intervention. Photo-elicitation interviews are used to explore the experiences of urban Anglophones, northern Anglophones and northern Francophones.	Timeline for manuscript: December 31, 2009

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
<b>2.2 PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS: Environmental Health</b>			
2.2.1 Hamilton Child Blood Lead Research Study	<b>HPH</b>	The main objective of the study is to provide an estimate of the prevalence of blood lead levels $\geq 0.48$ $\mu\text{mol/L}$ as well as clinically actionable blood lead levels ( $> 0.19$ $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) among children 6 years of age or under residing within a targeted geographic area in the City of Hamilton judged to be at increased theoretical risk of environmental lead exposure. A secondary objective is to explore the influence of risk factors and environmental lead levels on children's blood lead levels within our sample.	Final report in early 2010 December 31, 2009
<b>2.3 PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS: Family Health</b>			
2.3.1 Infant Feeding Survey	<b>HPH KFL&amp;A</b>	Survey of mothers to determine infant feeding intentions and practices in the first year of life and to determine barriers and facilitators to achieving intended infant feeding methods.	December 31, 2009
2.3.2 NutriSTEP® Project	<b>NRC (Nutrition Resource Centre)</b> SDHU University of Guelph: Dr Heather Keller and Dr Janis Randall Simpson	Nutrition Screening Tool for Every Preschooler Supporting Implementation in Ontario: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop evaluation plan* and begin work on key tools. Evaluation Plan completed September 30, 2009.</li> <li>• Members of Provincial Program Advisory Committee (PAC), meets quarterly.</li> <li>• Advocate for enhanced NRC capacity (via inclusion of NutriSTEP® program in various proposals/briefing notes submitted from key stakeholders); successful inclusion of NutriSTEP® in at least one stakeholder proposal by December 2009.</li> <li>• Explore feasibility of including NutriSTEP® as component of provincial child healthy weights/health surveillance system/data sources; contact/presentations made to at least two provincial bodies responsible for child health surveillance by December 2009.</li> </ul> *Evaluation Plan covers: Program Uptake; Program Materials; NRC Capacity; Parent Participation/Effective Recruiting; Parent Nutrition Education Awareness; Screening of Children; NutriSTEP® as a Surveillance Tool; Overall Effectiveness; NutriSTEP® Tool Revision.	December 31, 2009
2.3.3 RRFSS Analysis – HEAL Awareness & Waist Circumference Modules	<b>MLHU</b>	Complete the analysis of the “HEAL Awareness” and the “Self-reported Waist Circumference” RRFSS module data.	December 31, 2009

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners</b>	<b>Description of Work/Deliverables</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
2.3.4 Predictors of Health and Developmental Trajectories Among Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Children in Canada: Effects of Family and Community Level Characteristics	<b>MLHU</b>	This research will use secondary data files to explore the effects of child characteristics, family environment, and community conditions on the health of Aboriginal children, as well as to compare the health and development trajectories of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in terms of child, family, and community variables.	December 31, 2009
<b>2.4 PRIMARY RESEARCH PROJECTS: System Level</b>			
2.4.1 Core Public Health Functions Research Initiative	<b>McMaster OAHPP MOHLTC – Public Health Division</b> MLHU OPH	Compares and contrasts the implementation of the core public health functions in British Columbia and the OPHS in Ontario. Elements being evaluated include process, impact, workforce implications, primary care and equity.	2014
2.4.2 Study on Health Impacts of Public Health Transit	<b>OPH</b>	Data collection and analysis of health impacts of public transit disruption from multiple data sources including population survey, community partner feedback and literature review.	December 31, 2009

### 3.0 Education and Development

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners</b>	<b>Description of Work/Deliverables</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
3.1 Provide Student Experiences Relevant to Public Health	<b>All PHRED Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undergraduate, graduate and post professional licensure students in public health related disciplines including community medicine residents are offered a variety of placement opportunities in public health units. Staff provides a variety of supports to students and serves on program advisory committees.</li> <li>Community-based learning projects, clinical enquiry projects and clinical experience for medical students.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
3.2 Sponsor and Support Student Research	<b>All PHRED Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students are supported to conduct relevant research within PHRED sites.</li> <li>• Research for graduate thesis projects is conducted in PHRED sites, with PHRED staff providing supervision.</li> <li>• An award of \$1000 is presented at the OPHA Annual Conference to an undergraduate or graduate student for the best paper describing a research/evaluation project conducted by the student.</li> <li>• SDHU's and Laurentian University's Louise Picard Public Health Research Grant routinely includes students as project research assistants.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
3.3 Provide Input Into Course Curricula including Developing Innovative Teaching Models and Teaching Public Health Related Courses	<b>All PHRED Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An MPH program has been established at Queen's University, to begin in September 2009. A PHRED staff member is developing and coordinating one of the core courses, entitled "Foundations of Public Health Practice."</li> <li>• PHRED staff are playing an active role in advocating for public health content and learning experiences in the curriculum renewal of The University of Western Ontario/ Fanshawe College collaborative nursing program.</li> <li>• Hamilton Public Health staff person provided input/ consultation to the McMaster University Nursing curriculum.</li> <li>• Sudbury PHRED continues to provide input into the development of Northern Ontario School of Medicine curricula (Undergraduate Medicine Program, Post-Graduate Medicine Program, and Dietetic Internship Program). Activities include facilitating small group sessions, providing placements and preceptors, developing assessment tools, providing lectures and course material, reviewing curriculum and supporting student's interests in public health.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
3.4 Enhancing Your Preceptor Practice: Workshop Reach And Teach Kits	<b>MLHU</b>	This resource will assist and support health units and their staff in providing exemplary student learning experiences. An evaluation is planned for 2009.	April 2009 (resource dissemination) December 31, 2009 (evaluation)
3.5 Application of Multiple Intervention Program (MIP) Approach	<b>OPH</b>	Completing the Evaluation of the MIP approach with the Reproductive Health Program in collaboration with the Community Health Research Unit (CHRU).	December 31, 2009

## 4.0 Knowledge Exchange

Project	Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
4.1 Health-evidence.ca	<b>HPH</b>	Health-evidence.ca provides quality research evidence to public health decision makers, which is compiled in a free, searchable online registry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address learning gaps related to the identification and critical appraisal of public health research evidence.</li> <li>• Identify informational needs and preferences for accessing and receiving research evidence.</li> <li>• Develop an easily accessible, user friendly online public health resource – Health-evidence.ca.</li> </ul>	March 31, 2009
4.2 Development of Community-Based Public Health Resources Regarding Zoonotic Diseases and Household Pets	<b>HPH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of an integrated network of professionals in the field of companion animal zoonotic diseases.</li> <li>• Identify needs of public health personnel in the area of household pets and zoonotic diseases.</li> <li>• Develop comprehensive evidence-based information sheets regarding the different pet species and different zoonotic diseases.</li> <li>• Convert information sheets that will be prepared to an electronic format that can be made available online to facilitate widespread access by public health personnel.</li> <li>• Develop an educational program to increase the knowledge of public health personnel involved in health promotion concerning pets and zoonotic diseases.</li> </ul>	March 31, 2009
4.3 RRFSS Website Evaluation	<b>KFL&amp;A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant to all health units. Of strategic importance as the final report (2008) identified issues to be considered in the transition of RRFSS to the Agency.</li> <li>• A publication regarding the RRFSS Website Evaluation will be produced.</li> </ul>	December 2009
4.4 Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP) Focus Groups	<b>MLHU</b> SDHU	Reports will provide valuable feedback to health units participating in the NFVP, the MHP and other health units that may be involved in or considering other school nutrition programs.	Report February 2009 Manuscript July 2009
4.5 Evaluation of the Health Effects of Wind Turbines	<b>KFL&amp;A</b>	Wind turbines have been or are being considered in multiple health unit areas. There is much controversy about the health effects of wind turbines, and there is a vast range in the quality of supporting evidence. This report will assess the quality of available research and summarize the findings.	December 2009
4.6 How To Partner With Others in Research Module	<b>SDHU</b> Laurentian University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant to Foundational Standard – research, knowledge exchange and program evaluation.</li> <li>• Of interest to many Health Units, especially those who have not historically engaged in research.</li> <li>• Develop ‘just in time’ module regarding how to collaborate with others including academic researchers in research.</li> </ul>	December 2009

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners</b>	<b>Description of Work/Deliverables</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
4.7 Annotated Bibliography of Evaluation Tools and Resources	<b>SDHU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibliography will present brief summaries of evaluation resources that are relevant to public health and that meet criteria for quality and user-friendliness.</li> <li>• One-page summary for each resource describing the type of resource and any unique features.</li> <li>• Of interest to most HUs, who are having to choose between many available resources to guide their evaluation practice for the Foundational Standard – research, knowledge exchange and program evaluation.</li> </ul>	December 2009

## 5.0 Workforce Development and Core Competencies

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Lead (Bolded) Project Partners</b>	<b>Description of Work/Deliverables</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
5.1 Public Health Nutrition Practice Enhancement	<b>KFL&amp;A</b>	<p>The objectives of this project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the need for discipline specific public health nutrition competency sets.</li> <li>• Define public health nutrition practice in Canada.</li> <li>• Explore an organizational structure to provide leadership for PH nutrition practice in Canada.</li> <li>• Develop a communication plan.</li> </ul>	July 2010
5.2 Benchmarking Website	<b>OPH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain website; identify a long term strategy.</li> <li>• Continuously monitor use.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009
5.3 Differentiating the Novice and Expert Perspectives in the Integration of the Community Health Nursing Standards and Public Health Core Competencies Into Practice and the Performance Appraisal Process	<b>MLHU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of this research is to evaluate revisions to the public health nurse performance appraisal tool.</li> <li>• Supports Foundational Standard – research and knowledge exchange.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009

## 6.0 Performance Measurement

Project	Project Lead (Boded) Project Partners	Description of Work/Deliverables	Timeline
6.1 Building Workforce Capacity Around the Access and Use of Community Profile Census Data	<b>HPH</b>	Development of a manual and online learning module describing what community profile census information is available, how it can be accessed and how it can be used to inform program planning for public health professionals.	December 31, 2009
6.2 Performance Measurement Program for Health Units	<b>OPH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a framework with indicators and measures, a data collection process, tools and template for reporting.</li> <li>• Implement the framework as a performance report for monitoring and evaluation of the selected indicators.</li> </ul>	December 31, 2009

## Contact Information – Provincial PHRED Program Sites

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