



ACHSC COMMUNIQUÉ – JULY 2009

1. Public Health Agency of Canada Funding

In March, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) asked us to put forth an expression of interest for renewed funding for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and then we were asked to follow-up in May with a detailed proposed work plan. We are happy to report that we have received \$80,000 from PHAC to continue advancing school health this year. With this funding, we will be moving ahead with work related to the regional school health teams, the health of Aboriginal students, expanding our partnerships and a symposium. Further detail of the activities we will undertake in these areas will be determined over the next few months.

2. June Board Meetings

On June 15th, the Board of Directors of ACHSC met to reflect on our purpose, governance and future as an organization. At the end of the day, the group felt that we now have some clarity regarding our work as an organization. The main outcome of this meeting was the formation of a working group on governance that will propose a governance model to the board at an upcoming Board Meeting.

On June 16th, a regular Board Meeting was held. Discussion centred on the continuation of the regional team approach this year, as well as the possibility of ACHSC being involved in research. Both of these items will be undertaken further by working groups.

3. Meeting with Education Sector Partners

The ACHSC Co-Chairs were pleased to be able to meet with executive directors from the Alberta School Boards Association, College of Alberta School Superintendents and Alberta School Councils Association, as well as the assistant secretary of the Alberta Teachers Association to discuss the work of ACHSC, past partnerships and the possibility of future collaboration to support school health in Alberta in June. We are excited for the partnership potential that these relationships hold.

4. Regional School Health Team Meetings Report

In the fall and winter, through funding provided in 2008/09 from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), we hosted a series of regional team meetings. These meetings were successful in identifying local champions, understanding unique issues in each region related to school health and highlighting 'key messages' from school health stakeholders from around Alberta. It was also apparent that there was broad support for the regional team model. Thanks to the funding provided by PHAC, we are able to provide an executive summary about these meetings. Watch for an e-mail soon containing this report. Thank you to everyone who took part in the meetings.

5. Upcoming Work of ACHSC

This summer will see the formation and continuation of several working groups of ACHSC in the following areas:

- Governance
- Regional School Health Teams
- Aboriginal School Health
- Symposium Planning
- Research

For more information on ACHSC or if you are interested in being involved in any ACHSC activities, please visit www.achsc.org, or contact Rhonda Patton (rhonda.patton@albertahealthservices.ca) or Dave Colburn (davecolb@yahoo.com).