



**Proceedings and Report of the
8th annual *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity* Forum**

**Alcohol Policy: Movement in Ontario
*The Crucial Need for Policy in Addressing Alcohol Problems***

March 7 and 8, 2011
Novotel Hotel - North York
5100 Yonge Street, Toronto

Report Outline

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Forum Planning Committee

- *Ben Rempel (chair), Ontario Public Health Association*
- *Jason LeMar, Ontario Public Health Association*
- *Jenny Smith, York Region Community Health Services*
- *Cathy Edwards, Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health*
- *Janet McAllister, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*
- *Norman Giesbrecht, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*
- *Robert Mann, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*



Members of the ANOC 8 planning committee flank Keynote speaker Dr. Gerald Thomas. Members include Norman Giesbrecht, Ben Rempel, Jason LeMar, Janet McAllister, Robert Mann. Missing from photo: Cathy Edwards and Jenny Smith

Why did we meet?

Context of the Forum

Alcohol consumption ranks second in Canada as an etiologic risk factor according to the World Health Organization's burden of disease studies.

According to 2002 data released by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, the estimated annual cost in Canada for indirect and direct costs associated with alcohol consumption is over \$14 billion and includes health care, enforcement, loss work productivity and other harms such as fire damage.

“Nearly 4% of all deaths globally are related to alcohol. Too few countries use effective policy options to prevent death, disease and injury from alcohol use. Many countries have weak alcohol policies and prevention programmes.”

– Dr. Ala Alwan, World Health Organization, 2010

Despite the prevalent harms associated with alcohol use and misuse, there are a number of evidence-based interventions that can reduce this harm. The leading publication on alcohol policy is the 2010 book *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy, 2nd edition*, by Dr. Thomas Babor and colleagues. This resource indicates that the following policy levers are the most effective in reducing harm:

1. Pricing and taxation
2. Regulating the physical availability of alcohol
3. Modifying the drinking context
4. Drinking-driving countermeasures
5. Regulating alcohol promotion
6. Education and persuasion strategies, and
7. Treatment and early intervention services

“Many countries recognize the serious public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol and have taken steps to prevent the health and social burdens and treat those in need of care. But clearly much more needs to be done to reduce the loss of life and suffering associated with harmful alcohol use.”

– Dr. Ala Alwan, World Health Organization, 2010

Objectives of the Forum

The objectives of the forum were developed by the forum planning committee and included:

- ✓ Enhance knowledge related to the alcohol-policy field
- ✓ Provide practical application of alcohol policy theory
- ✓ Allow for networking and relationship building
- ✓ Outline community mobilization strategies

These objectives were accomplished through lecture, panel sessions, discussions groups and open dialogue among leading researchers, community leaders, direct service providers, policy analysts, government officials and public health professionals who are working on policy strategies to reduce harm associated with alcohol.

At a macro-level, this forum (and the seven preceding it) is meant to provide extensive knowledge, resources, networks, ideas, and passion for those in attendance. The forums assist in bringing evidence-based research to the forefront of public health dialogue and decision-making, informing and enhancing alcohol policy, at both provincial and local levels. In turn, sharing of such information will lead to better-informed policy interventions, resulting in a healthier, safer, and more productive Ontario.



Presenter Dr. Gerald Thomas

What did we learn?

Learnings from the Forum

1. The province of Ontario needs to establish a strategy specific to alcohol

Based on the high financial, health, and social costs associated with alcohol, the province of Ontario needs to create, implement, support, and evaluate an alcohol strategy with a strong health mandate. Such a strategy needs to recognize the harms related to alcohol and promote a vision to the province with clear direction, timelines, and accountability indicators included. Effective leadership needs to be established on this issue. Strong examples of provincial alcohol strategies can be seen from the health ministries of Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

“Governments, public health agencies, NGOs and health & safety professionals are urged to be proactive on this issue and encourage comprehensive and effective action ... otherwise, it is expected that the damage and costs related to alcohol will increase.”

- Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Forum Presenter, 2011

2. Work can be done locally to build momentum towards an alcohol strategy

Across Ontario, coalitions, networks, and regional health departments are implementing evidence-informed policy initiatives to minimize harms. These include developing regional alcohol strategies, updating municipal alcohol policies, advocating for strong regulatory controls on alcohol, actively supporting ALPHa alcohol-related resolutions, and implementing proven interventions such as Safer Bars programs and Road Safety initiatives. Future work could recognize the effects of “second-hand drinking”, focus efforts on populations who do not consume alcohol, and widely disseminate data strategically and creatively (e.g. story-telling, creating media sound bites).



Presenter Tom Martin

“We already see alcohol policy as a high priority and are moving towards development of a [local] alcohol strategy in 2012 ... If we could move alcohol policy development in the same manner that tobacco moved I think we’d start to see an increased uptake of change. The more emphasis there is on alcohol as a Class A Carcinogen and the more involvement Public Health Ontario has, the better we will do.”

- Forum participant, 2011

3. Prevention of alcohol controls from further erosion needs to occur

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) needs to be held accountable for the health implications of its’ licensing decisions. The Attorney General’s office needs to be held accountable for the health implications of its changes to the Liquor Licence Act. Medical Officers of Health can be utilized more strategically as community champions to advocate to the provincial Medical Officer of Health, Members of Provincial Parliament, and other influential community members to ensure alcohol controls are maintained.

“How do regional Boards of Health uphold the public health standards related to alcohol if provincial alcohol controls continue to erode? ... We need commitment at the provincial level!”

- Forum participant, 2011

4. A formal alcohol-specific organizing body needs to exist



Presenter Michael Perley

A formal well-resourced provincial alcohol-specific organizing body needs to exist to coordinate, mobilize, and respond to alcohol policy issues, specifically from a Public Health perspective. This organizing body needs to be pro-active in regards to emerging issues and have established systems in place to rapidly respond.

“Opportunities moving forward include galvanizing public health leadership on the issue of alcohol and building a coalition of support across sectors ... Need to stop working in silos ... Need one provincial body to organize, coordinate, and mobilize local communities”

- Forum Participant, 2011

Evaluations from the Forum

An immediate feedback form (March 2011) and a 4-month follow-up feedback form (July 2011) were distributed to participants for completion, receiving a 49% response rate and a 27% response rate respectively. Some of these main findings are presented below.

Figure 1: Summary of Evaluation Metrics

Item	Percentage rated high or very high
Overall Quality of the forum	95% (n=22)
Overall Usefulness of the forum	91% (n=22)
Good opportunity provided for networking	83% (n=40)
Current information provided	97% (n=40)
Mobilization strategies shared	78% (n=40)
WOULD you recommend this forum to colleagues?	100% (n=40)
HAVE you recommended this forum to colleagues?	81% (n=22)
Have you attended an ANOC forum in the last 2 years?	50% (n=40)

Figure 2: Pre and Post Evaluation Comparisons

Item	Percentage rated high or very high Pre-Forum	Percentage rated high or very high Immediate Post-Forum	Percentage rated high or very high 4-month Post-Forum
Knowledge of alcohol policy	25% (n=40)	83% (n=40)	73% (n=22)
Practical application of alcohol policy	30% (n=40)	63% (n=40)	91% (n=22)
Networking / Resources in the alcohol policy field	33% (n=40)	70% (n=40)	76% (n=22)
Knowledge of alcohol policy community mobilization strategies	30% (n=40)	68% (n=40)	77% (n=22)

Figure 3: Sector of Audience Members (n=84)

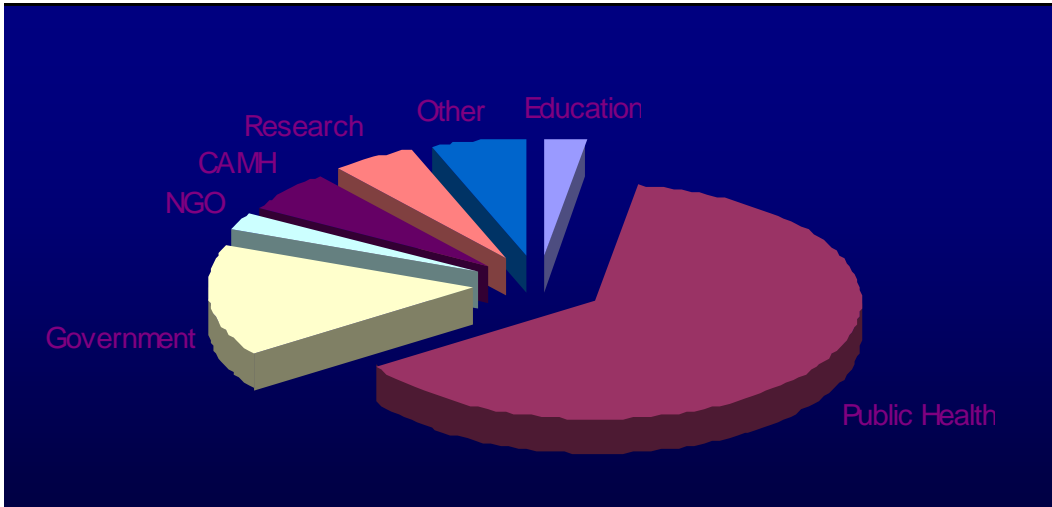
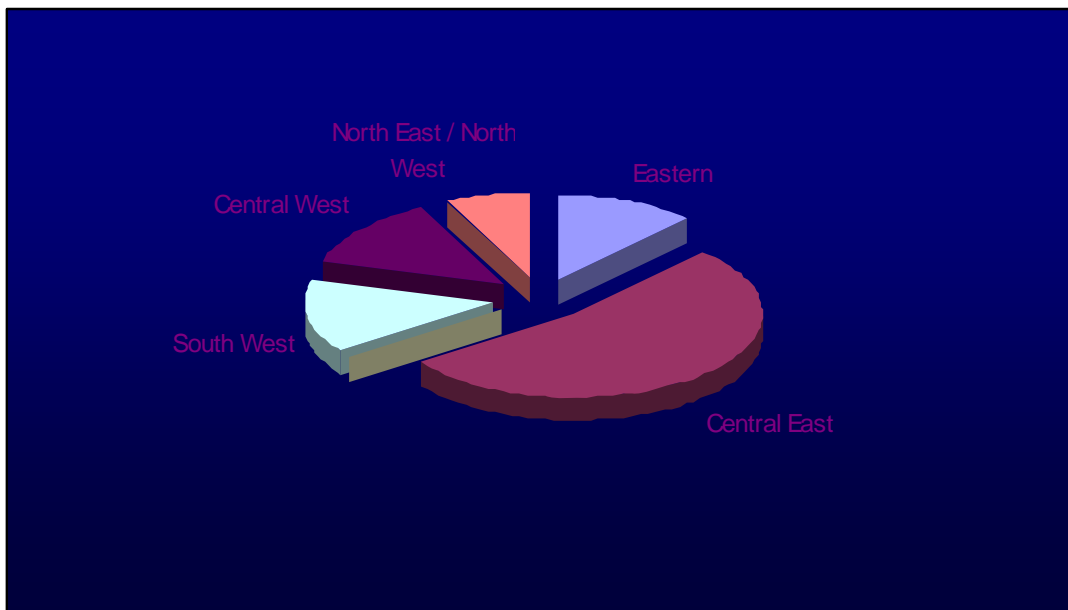


Figure 4: Region of Audience Members (n=84)



What happens next?

Next Steps from the Forum

Each year, the learning and suggestions recorded from the forum are discussed and prioritized by the OPHA Alcohol Workgroup. Priorities stemming from the forum include monitoring alcohol control activities in the province; linking with Public Health Units active in alcohol policy and alcohol strategy development; and pursuing feasibility of hosting an organizing body to move alcohol policy forward at the political level.

Further, the Alcohol Policy Network embeds appropriate action items from the forum into an annual work plan in order to better support and provide relevant and timely resources and services to public health units and health promotion professionals. Examples of this are assisting regional alcohol policy groups in priority setting and providing timely research briefs on emerging trends.

The forum provided participants the opportunity to discuss one of three current issues in alcohol policy and public health. The topics participants chose from include:

- ✓ Alcohol Advertising
- ✓ Provincial Alcohol Strategies
- ✓ Working with Government

Please review Appendix B for the summaries of these discussion groups along with participants' suggestions regarding next steps.



Public Health Panel Members : Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Dr. Charles Gardner, Ms. Jann Houston, Councilor Adam Vaughn, Dr. Gerald Thomas

Helpful Information

Appendix A: Presentation Summaries

Presentations for Monday, March 7th 2011

Dr. Gerald Thomas, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, [What's the Big Deal about Alcohol?](#)

This presentation addressed some of the more popular alcohol policy myths and arguments that are commonly found in the media, generally with an industry slant to them.

Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, [Understanding Alcohol is a Collective Issue: A brief overview of international, national and provincial strategies.](#)

This presentation discussed the importance of provincial alcohol strategies noting successes in other provinces. The presentation also illustrated how alcohol consumption is linked to various chronic diseases, injuries, addiction and other social harms related to family, workplace and school settings, among others.

Mr. Brian Hyndman, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, [Policy Initiatives at the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion](#)

This presentation discussed the history and primary audience of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP), which has since been renamed to Public Health Ontario (PHO). The presentation described the three main goals of PHO are to provide better information for informed public health decision making; to generate and disseminate knowledge for better public health decisions; and to support the Ontario public health system.

Ms. Jann Houston, [Toronto Public Health](#)

This presentation discussed main programs at Toronto Public Health related to alcohol policy: outlined population and demographic trends of the City of Toronto; discussed public health's mission and goals; the importance of advocating for stronger alcohol controls; and outlined how the substance-misuse prevention programs and resources address needs of the city.

Dr. Charles Gardner, [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

This presentation discussed local statistical evidence and research pointing to harms associated with alcohol and injury. The health unit's priorities were outlined including advocating for and supporting workplace alcohol policies and fetal alcohol syndrome initiatives.

Dr. Jessica Hopkins, [Niagara Region Public Health](#)

This presentation discussed challenges with the geography and demographic make-up of the Niagara region, along with emerging trends such as binge drinking. Successful and evaluated programs were highlighted including the road safety program “Think and Drive” and the sexual health program “Don’t wake up with more than a hangover”.

Councilor Adam Vaughan, Ward 20, City of Toronto (No PPT provided)

This presentation discussed the geography and population of Ward 20 in the City of Toronto, ongoing challenges associated with Toronto’s entertainment district, and challenges in working with the AGCO in ensuring alcohol control policies protect residents within Ward 20.

Presentations for Tuesday, March 8th 2011

Dr. Robert Mann, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, [The Burden of Alcohol in Ontario: Success and Challenges of past year](#)

This presentation addressed some of the positive news items (Ontario earns high mark on MADD Canada’s report card; Safer rules for young drivers created) and negative news items (“Buck a Beer proposal”; Loosening Liquor Laws in festivals and sporting events; potential privatization of the LCBO) regarding alcohol policy over the past year. Concluded by emphasizing that government needs to consult with the public health and research communities regarding healthy public policy.

KEYNOTE: Dr. Gerald Thomas, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, [All that you need to know about Alcohol Policy-making but were Afraid to Ask: Tips for engaging productively with the policy making process](#)

This presentation reviewed the importance of policy making including describing the steps of the policy process; understanding policy windows and how to take advantage of them; addressing the *research-to-policy* gap. The presentation discussed how politics, problems and solutions are all part of the policy mix, and the three components of the policy mix need to be present at the same time to elicit policy change. It was noted that coalition building and agenda setting can sometimes speed up the policy process.

Mr. Michael Perley, Ontario Coalition Against Tobacco, [Working with Government on Alcohol Policy](#)

This presentation discussed the differences between research and advocacy, the key steps in advocacy, the case for greater alcohol regulation, a discussion of the LCBO, possible positions to advocate on, a picture gallery of what alcohol warning labels might look like and lastly, recommended response to common arguments.

Ms. Cathy Edwards, Greater Kingston Area Safe and Sober Alliance, [Greater Kingston Area Safe & Sober Alliance](#)

This presentation reviewed recent initiatives of the Greater Kingston Area Safe and Sober Alliance which consists of community partners from enforcement, education, business, not-for-profit and the health sector. Some initiatives reviewed included work to address Queen's University Homecoming Event; social marketing tools such as a postcard survey, Facebook page, and Blog; developing a toolkit for municipal councilors; creating a background document addressing alcohol policies for local government; and planning for a symposium for the Fall.

Ms. Vanessa Trumpickas, Niagara Region Public Health, [Southwest / Central West Ontario Substance Misuse Prevention Network \(SMPN\)](#)

This presentation described members of the SMPN and the geographical borders they occupy. The purpose of the group is to support the 2008 ALPHA resolutions on alcohol through fostering communication; collaborating on work deliverables; educating the public about substance misuse issues; and influencing the implementation of healthy public policies. Some upcoming priorities include focus on stricter alcohol advertising standards; advocating for a provincial alcohol strategy; addressing issues around alcohol availability; and supporting advocacy efforts.

Mr. Tom Martin, Regional Municipality of Peel, [Ontario Safer Bars Partnership](#)

This presentation highlighted the members of the Ontario Safer Bars Partnership and explained that the Partnership proactively addresses alcohol policy issues in the bar and restaurant environments to minimize harm. Priorities include gathering high quality of evidence to support priorities; grow membership by inviting key stakeholders; evaluate effectiveness and efficiency; increase skill and capacity, primarily for advocacy and policy implementation efforts.

Appendix B: Participant's Main Points from the Event

Below are themes or quotes which arose out of the 1.5 day event. Some are ideas and comments which were put forth from audience members discussed during facilitated question and answer periods. Others are points discussed at the themed breakout discussion tables.

The harms and costs associated with alcohol appear to be ignored or not known by government and the general public. These attitudes need to change if a decrease in harms is expected.

More time and money is spent on enforcement and reactive measures, rather than prevention initiatives.

Labeling of alcohol products should be pursued again. Nutritional information and potential harms with consumption of the product need to be clearly outlined. The government of Alberta is moving forward on labeling of alcohol.

What does the upcoming provincial election mean for alcohol policy?

- Province running at a deficit so is looking to save money
- Effects of alcohol harm on society needs to be made clear
- Erosions of alcohol controls have begun (LLA changes) and have been proposed ("Buck a Beer"; sale of alcohol in convenience stores)

How do law changes in alcohol policy affect the work of public health?

- Changes in minimum pricing lead to changes in consumption levels
- Law changes are challenging and difficult to regulate
- We can learn about the effects of law changes from other provinces. For example, In Calgary, involvement in bar fights results from a ban from the downtown core. This is a deterrent for some as they would not be allowed to report to work if their office was downtown. Vancouver uses a card swiping system in each bar so that venue security can track important metrics including number of bars visited and length of stay in each, per patron. Halifax adheres to strict over-service laws which a bar can easily lose their Liquor Licence Act

How does the field of alcohol policy become more organized?

- Alcohol Policy needs to be a priority at the provincial government level and within the Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH). Commitments at these levels need to be made and adhered to
- Need to identify a champion – a political activist

- Need an organization to provide structure, direction, and support to an alcohol policy movement

Alcohol Advertising

- The key problem or issue with alcohol advertising needs to be clearly and commonly defined
- Alcohol advertising is currently a self-regulating process which is a conflict of interest. It exists within a reactive complaints system which is unknown and ineffective
- Alcohol advertising appears to target youth, and of late, targets women with messaging of: “Fun image”; “Girls night out”; “Normalization of women to drink as much as men”
- There are limited funds to promote the hazards associated with alcohol
- Limited political will with this issue exists; society may not desire change
- Parent groups, medical NGO’s, professional associations (RNAO, OMA) may consider this topic a priority for their membership
- Learning from the tobacco field may assist in planning effective strategies
- To better control alcohol advertising the following could be pursued:
 - Enforceable advertising codes
 - Independent monitoring system
 - Public health advertising campaigns
 - Alcohol labels
 - Remove ads from municipally-owned property (bus shelters, hockey arenas)
 - Ban or partial bans of advertisements – control those attracted by children and youth
 - Easier and known complaint process

Provincial Alcohol Strategies

- A proposed National alcohol strategy exists. Ontario does not have a provincial alcohol strategy. Several other provinces do. A provincial alcohol strategy would provide guidance and supports to local groups working on alcohol policy initiatives
- Government should look to what has worked at the municipal level and consider implementing on a provincial scale ensuring a conflict with the AGCO does not exist
- A strategy needs to consist of a unified voice, supported by various groups, NGO’s, and government
- Public health needs a provincial group arms-length from government to advocate, coordinate, provide leadership and mobilize local efforts
- Communication to the public through media around the importance of a provincial strategy will assist in movement
- The development and advertisement of (pending) National Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines may highlight the issue of alcohol policy in Canada

Working with Government

- Currently there exists a fragmented approach in working with government
- Grass Roots movement at the local level can eventually influence provincial mandates
- Alcohol policy appears to be absent from political agendas, even those of Health Ministries
- Alcohol controls in the province are eroding; activities appear to be of a larger deregulation agenda
- Public Health could work with local governments in responding to media around emerging trends and issues and capitalize on windows of opportunity
- Public health needs a provincial group arms-length from government to advocate, coordinate, provide leadership and mobilize local efforts
- Public Health Ontario needs to be a public organization which supports effective, researched-based alcohol policy
- Working with public health, the provincial government (Health Ministries, Public Health Ontario) need to begin working on a provincial alcohol strategy

Appendix C: Agenda of the Event

Day One: Evening Session (6:00PM to 10:00PM)

- 6:00 – 6:45 **Registration**
- 6:45 – 7:00 **Welcome, Purpose, and Objectives** – *Ms. Janet McAllister, Chair, OPHA Alcohol Workgroup*
- 7:00 – 7:30 **What’s the Big Deal About Alcohol?** – *Dr. Gerald Thomas, Senior Research and Policy Analyst, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse*
- 7:30 – 8:00 **Understanding Alcohol is a Collective Issue: A brief overview of global, national, and provincial alcohol control strategies** – *Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*
- 8:00 – 8:15 **Policy Initiatives at the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion** – *Mr. Brian Hyndman, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion*
- 8:15 – 9:00 **Public Health Panel: Opportunities for alcohol policy change at the local level** – *moderated by Mr. Brian Hyndman, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion*

Panel Members:

- *Ms. Jann Houston, Director, Healthy Living – Healthy Communities, on behalf of Dr. David McKeown, Toronto Public Health*
- *Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit*
- *Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Associate Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region Public Health*
- *Councilor Adam Vaughan, Ward 20, City of Toronto*

- 9:00 – 9:25 **Questions from the Audience and Facilitated Discussion** – *moderated by Mr. Brian Hyndman, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion*
- 9:25 – 9:30 **Summary of Panel and Closing Comments** – *moderated by Mr. Brian Hyndman, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Janet McAllister, Chair, OPHA Alcohol Workgroup*
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Networking Reception**

Day Two (8:30AM to 4:00PM)

7:30 – 8:30 **Registration / Coffee**

8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome, Purpose, and Objectives** – *Ms. Janet McAllister, Chair, OPHA Alcohol Workgroup*

8:45 – 9:15 **The Burden of Alcohol in Ontario: Successes and challenges of the past year** – *Dr. Robert Mann, Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health*

9:15 – 10:15 **Keynote Address: All You Wanted to Know About Alcohol Policy-making But Were Afraid to Ask: Tips for engaging productively with the policy-making process** – *Dr. Gerald Thomas, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse*

10:15 – 11:00 **Questions & Answers followed by Morning break**

11:00 – 11:30 **First Breakout Discussion Group¹**: – *Ms. Janet McAllister, Chair, OPHA Alcohol Workgroup (moderator)*

11:30 – 12:15 **Working with Government on Alcohol Policy** – *Mr. Michael Perley, Director, Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco*

12:15– 1:15 **Catered Lunch**

1:15 – 2:30 **Movement on Alcohol Policy: Committees in action**

Presenters:

- Changing the local alcohol environment in KFL&A– *Ms. Cathy Edwards, Kingston, Greater Kingston Area Safe & Sober Community Alliance*
- Southwest / Central West Ontario Substance Misuse Prevention Network Update: Movement on Policy – *Ms. Vanessa Trumpickas, Hamilton Public Health Services*
- Update from the Ontario Safer Bars Partnership – *Mr. Tom Martin, Peel Region Public Health*

2:30 – 3:15 **Questions & Answers, followed by Second Discussion Group** - *Ms. Janet McAllister, Chair, OPHA Alcohol Workgroup (moderator)*

3:15 – 3:45 **Reporting Back from Discussion Groups, Summary and Closing**

¹ A Discussion Group is a community of professionals that share an interest in a Discussion Group topic. Topics include Alcohol and Economics; Provincial Alcohol Strategy; Alcohol Advertising; and Working with Government. An opportunity to bring discussion points back to the entire audience will occur.

Appendix D: Media Release

Senior public health experts gather to discuss Ontario alcohol policy and alcohol-related harms

For Immediate Release – March 7, 2011 (Toronto) – As the question of how best to address harms associated with the sale and consumption of alcohol in Ontario persists, the Ontario Public Health Association and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) are pleased to present the eighth annual forum, aptly entitled **Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity**.

This two day event will be held on Monday, March 7th and Tuesday March 8, 2011 at the North York Novotel Hotel, 5100 Yonge Street / 3 Park Home Ave, Toronto.

Public health professionals, addiction counselors and policy makers will gather from across the province to discuss Ontario's alcohol policy and the actions that need to be taken based on current research, policy, and practical applications that address alcohol-related harm.

This year's forum will host an evening panel discussion with regional medical officers of health, senior public health executives and a Toronto city councilor. The following day will include presentations from leading alcohol policy researchers and regional initiatives to address alcohol harm across Ontario. The scheduled keynote speaker is:

Dr. Gerald Thomas, Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

Dr. Thomas has been involved in alcohol policy at both the national and provincial levels since 2004. Among other things, he participated in the creation of the first National Alcohol Strategy for Canada (2007) and the development of a public health approach to managing alcohol for British Columbia (2008).

Panel Speakers Include:

- **Dr. Charles Gardner**, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- **Dr. Jessica Hopkins**, Associate Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region Public Health
- **Ms. Jann Houston**, Director, Healthy Living – Healthy Communities, on behalf of Dr. David McKeown, Toronto Public Health
- **Mr. Adam Vaughan**, Toronto City Councilor

Other Speakers include:

- **Dr. Norman Giesbrecht**, CAMH
- **Dr. Robert Mann**, CAMH

- **Mr. Michael Perley**, Ontario Action on Tobacco
- **Mr. Tom Martin**, Peel Region Public Health
- **Ms. Vanessa Trumpickas**, Hamilton Public Health Services
- **Ms. Cathy Edwards**, KFL&A Public Health

Funded by the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, this year's forum is a collaboration of the OPHA and CAMH. Support also comes from the, York Region Public Health Services, and the Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington Public Health.

Established in 1949, OPHA is a voluntary, independent organization of public health professionals that provides leadership on issues affecting the public's health. The Alcohol Policy Network is a program of OPHA which provides analysis of healthy public policies that influence the consumption of alcohol.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital, as well as one of the world's leading research centres in this field. CAMH combines clinical care, research, education, policy development and health promotion to transform the lives of people affected by mental health and addiction issues. CAMH is fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, and is a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization Collaborating Centre.

Media:

To confirm attendance or for further information/full schedule, please contact: **Jason LeMar, Program Coordinator** at (416) 367-3313 ext 264 or email jleamar@opha.on.ca
For media inquires: **Michael Torres, CAMH Media Relations** at (416) 595 6015; or email media@camh.net