


ONTARIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY 

## Overview of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion (OAHPP)

- OAHPP created in 2007 through legislation with an independent Board of Directors appointed that fall, and CEO announced in March 2008.
- OAHPP began operations in July 2008 and in July 2009, all program areas were launched including Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.
- Mandate of OAHPP is to protect and promote the health of Ontarians, and reduce health inequities.
- OAHPP is a cornerstone of public health renewal in Ontario, which stemmed from multiple reviews following a number of major public health events in Ontario including SARS, Walkerton waterborne outbreak of E. coli 0157H7, and food safety gaps.
- While these reviews focused on health protection, it became clear that there were significant population health issues in areas of chronic diseases, health inequities and environmental and occupational health.

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## Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion

**Vision**  
We will be an internationally recognized center of expertise dedicated to the protection and promotion of the health of Ontarians through the application and advancement of science and knowledge

**Mission**  
We are accountable to support health care providers, the public health system and partner ministries in making informed choices and taking informed action to improve the health and security of all Ontarians through transparent and timely provision of credible scientific advice and practical tools

**Mandate**  
To provide scientific and technical advice for those working to protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

**Values**

- Credible
- Responsive
- Relevant
- Innovative
- Collaborative
- Balanced

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**What we do:**

**GOALS**

1. Better information for better public health decisions and actions
2. Generate and accelerate application of knowledge for better public health decisions and actions
3. Support the Ontario public health system in its daily business and enhance capacity in emergencies



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**OAHPP's Commitment to Equity**

- As stated in its founding legislation, Object (a) of the OAHPP is to provide scientific and technical advice and support to the health care system and the Government of Ontario in order to protect and promote the health of Ontarians **and reduce health inequities.**
- In the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan OAHPP committed to **developing and applying a population health equity lens** in assessing its activities and setting priorities and to support better decisions and better actions by its partners.

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## Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion

**Legislated Objects**


(a) To provide scientific and technical support to the health care system and the Government of Ontario in order to protect and promote the health of Ontarians and reduce health inequities\*;

\* "Health inequities are differences in health which are not only unnecessary and avoidable, but in addition, are considered unfair and unjust." (Whitehead, 1992)

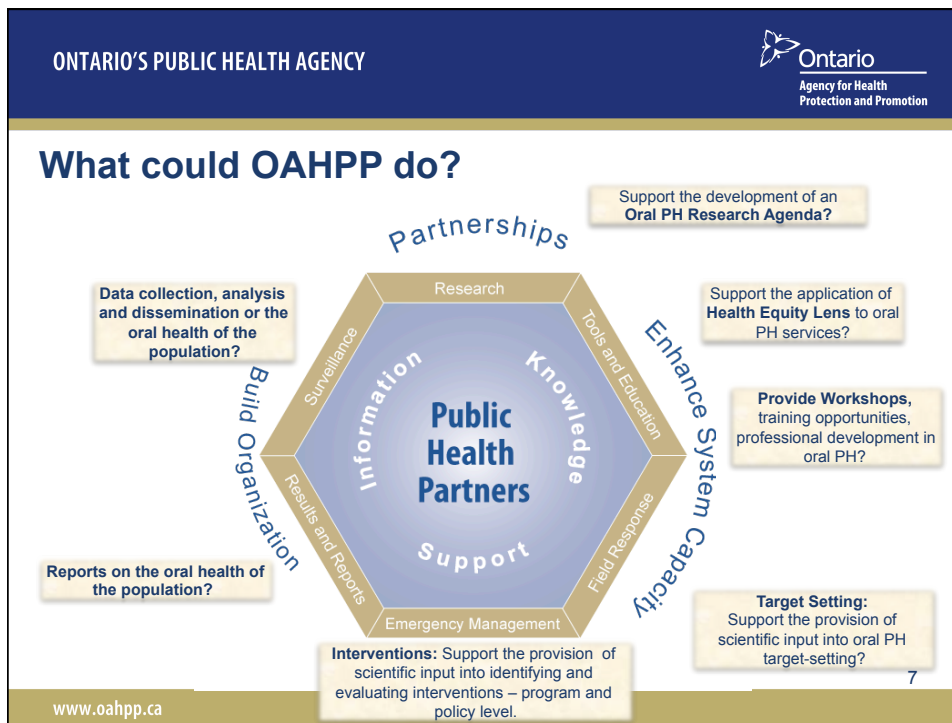
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## OAHPP Strategic Framework



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## Definitions

**Health Equity:**

- The absence of systematic and potentially remediable differences in one or more aspects of health across populations or population groups defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically.

**Health Inequalities**

- Differences in health status experienced by various individuals or groups in society. These can be the result of genetic and biological factors, choices made or by chance, but often they are because of unequal access to key factors that influence health like income, education, employment and social supports.

**Health Inequities**

- Health inequities are differences in health which are not only unnecessary and avoidable, but in addition are considered unfair and unjust.

Source: International Society for Equity in Health [http://www.iseqh.org/workdef\\_en.htm](http://www.iseqh.org/workdef_en.htm)

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## How could the OAHPP role and mandate translate into action in oral health