

Strengthening Advocacy and Social Justice in Community Health Nursing: RNAO Political Action Resources

Lynn Anne Mulrooney, RN, MPH, PhD

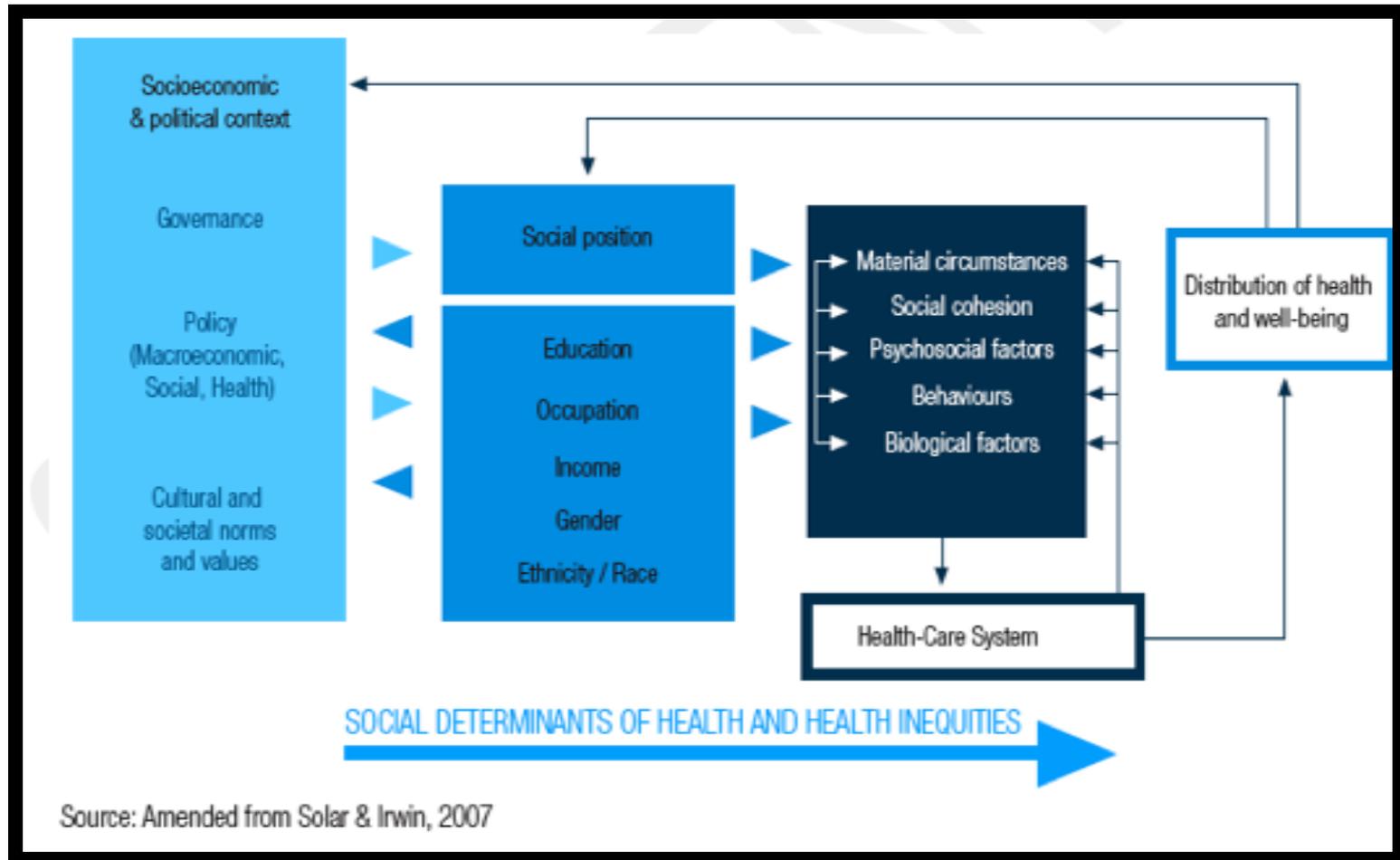
**Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
4th National Community Health Nurses Conference**

June 16, 2010

Social Justice and Health

The poor health of the poor, the social gradient in health within countries, and the marked health inequities between countries are caused by the unequal distribution of power, income, goods, services....toxic combination of poor social policies and programmes, unfair economic arrangements, and bad politics... CSDOH 2008

CSDH Conceptual Framework



CSDH Three Principles for Action:

- Improve the conditions of daily life--the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.
- Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources--the structural drivers of those conditions of daily life--globally, nationally and locally.

CSDH Three Principles for Action

- Measure the problem, evaluate action, expand the knowledge base, develop a workforce that is trained in the sdoh, and raise public awareness about the sdoh

Health is Political



Health Care is Political



Seniors from the Kingston Health Coalition rally for a minimum care standard outside the hearings for new Long Term Care Homes Act

Individually and collectively...

As professionals who practice at the intersection of public policy and private lives, nurses are ideally situated and morally obligated to include political advocacy and efforts to influence healthy public policy in their practice.

Falk-Raphael 2005

RNAO (2006). Section 1. Framework for Political Action. RNAO Political Action Kit.

RNAO: Mission Statement

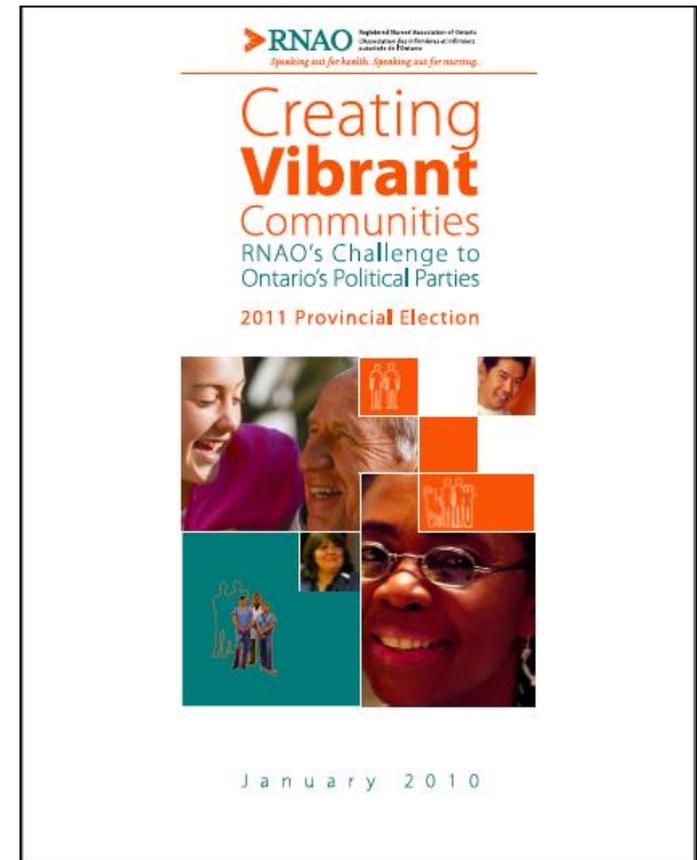
We represent the nursing profession in Ontario, speaking out for health and speaking out for nursing. Our mission is to pursue healthy public policy and to promote the full participation of registered nurses in shaping and delivering health services now and in the future. We believe health is a resource for everyday living and health-care an universal human right.

Political Platforms Serve to...

- Make our positions public
- Influence parties' platforms
 - impact on debate during the election campaign
 - look for commitments from all parties
 - Commitment from whichever party forms government
 - Accountability measure throughout the term of next government

Creating Vibrant Communities: RNAO's Challenge to Ontario's Political Parties 2011 Provincial Election

- Strengthening Social Determinants, Equity and Healthy Communities
- Building Sustainable, Green Communities
- Enhancing Medicare
- Improving Access to Nursing Services
- Building a Nursing Career in Ontario
- Embracing our Democracy, Strengthening our Public Services



Creating Vibrant Communities

Principles that Cross Six Themes

- Equity
- Dignity
- Accountability, transparency, democracy
- Upstream, visionary policies
- Fairness and respect for Aboriginal peoples
- Health and health care for all

Mass Media and In

S



Coyle: Nurses try to inject 'visionary thinking' into Ontario politics

In releasing *Creating Vibrant Communities: RNAO's Challenge to Ontario's Political Parties*, the province's registered nurses association said it hoped to "kick-start" the 2011 election campaign.

Annual Queen's Park Day



Who Do We Meet With?

- Meetings with MPPs, ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, and political staff of all 3 parties
- Role of governing party political staff:
 - Provide strategic, partisan advice to Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants;
 - Liaison with civil service, other Cabinet/MPPs, Premier's Office;
 - Represent the Minister/PA
- Role of opposition party political staff
 - Support the MPP through research, liaison and community relations
 - May have central caucus role, such as research, Leader's staff.

RNAO (2006). Section 4. Lobbying Senior Administrators and Politicians. RNAO Political Action Kit.

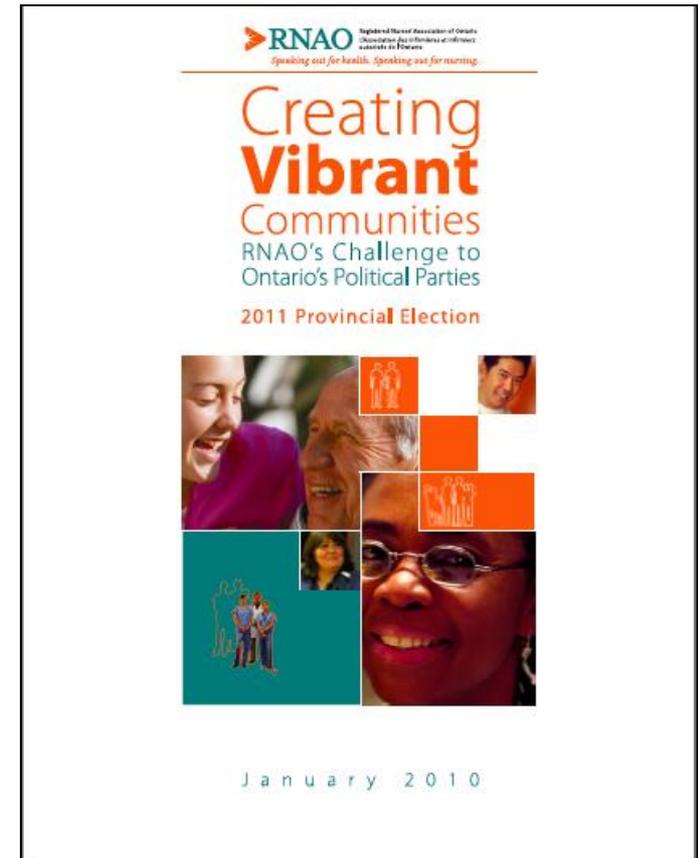
Queen's Park 2010



Strategies to Move Ahead

Being on the public record through:

- RNAO's Election Platform
- Pre-budget and other Submissions
- Press release and media advisory
- Journal articles
- Letters to the Editor
- Op-Ed
- Media interviews on TV, Radio, newspapers
- Posters
- Events
- Advocacy/lobbying



Voices from the Street: Michael Creek

Poverty steals your soul, leaving you with little or no hope. It robs you of what can be good in life. It leaves you isolated, lonely and hungry and that is just the start of it. Every day is a struggle.



Working Together for Health Equity



25 in 5: Network for
Poverty Reduction



RNAO (2006). Section 3. Working Together. RNAO Political Action Kit.

Everyone Deserves a Home: Advocacy for Affordable Housing



photo Credit: Mark Davis

**Everyone Deserves a Home:
An Evening on Advocacy for an Affordable
Housing Strategy**

Thursday, July 9 7-9 p.m.
RNAO Home Office (158 Pearl Street, Toronto)

Refreshments will be served from 6:30-7:00 p.m.
Guest Speakers and Discussion 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Come join special guests with direct experience of facing challenges with access to housing, Cathy Crowe, street nurse, author, and co-founder of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, and your nursing colleagues to hone our individual and collective advocacy strategies to influence Ontario's Affordable Housing Strategy.

To help us plan our refreshments, please RSVP to Kayla Scott at kscott@rnao.org or by phone at 416-408-5613 or toll free at 1-800-268-7199 ext. 214. If you have any questions about this event or have mobility or dietary needs that you would like us to be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Doris Grinspun to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, April 29, 2010

Ontario's registered nurses urge the government to transform Ontario's social assistance system from a punitive system of complicated and contradictory rules and regulations into one that is focused on people and families and that treats them with respect. This includes raising the rates significantly so that they are based on actual local living costs for food and shelter. We're asking you to introduce a \$100-per-month healthy food supplement as a step toward addressing the gap between dangerously low social assistance rates and nutritional requirements....we ask that the government make sure that access to healthy food is maintained [Special Diet Allowance Program]

<http://dothemath.thestop.org/>



The screenshot shows a website banner with a light beige background. On the left is a photograph of a brown paper grocery bag overflowing with fresh produce like carrots and leafy greens. The bag has a logo that reads 'THE STOP' in large letters, with 'COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE' written below it. To the right of the bag, the text 'POVERTY IN ONTARIO' is displayed in a large, dark, sans-serif font, with 'HUNGRY FOR ANSWERS' underneath in a smaller, blue, hand-drawn style font. Below this, a quote is presented in a light grey box: '"You know that you are poor when you need to wait to give your child his asthma medicine because you can't afford the aero-chamber."' To the right of the quote, in a smaller font, is the attribution '- Voices from Davenport West Town Hall Meeting'. At the bottom left of the banner is a red, ribbon-like graphic with the white text 'DO THE MATH'. At the bottom right is a dark grey navigation bar with five white text links: 'HOME', 'FAQ', 'LINKS', 'DOES IT ADD UP?', and 'SPREAD THE WORD'.

An immediate introduction of a \$100 per month Healthy Food Supplement is a step towards addressing the gap between dangerously low assistance rates and nutritional requirements.

In partnership with:



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Gerontological Nursing Association
HAMILTON CHAPTER

RNAO
HAMILTON CHAPTER

Special Invitation

Poverty is a direct threat to the health and well-being of people in our community. Hamilton area nurses warmly invite our fellow community members to attend an evening of lively discussion and possibilities for action at the event:

Dignity For All:

A Community Meeting on Addressing Poverty in Hamilton

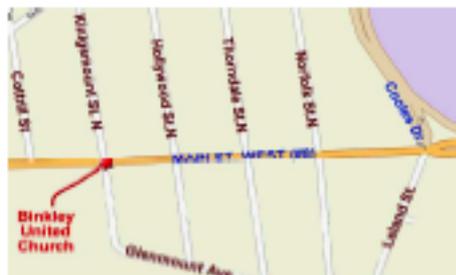


Date:

Monday, November 16th, 2009
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location

Binkley United Church
1570 Main St. West
Hamilton
Refreshments will be provided



Panel Speakers

Rosemarie Chapman, Campaign for Adequate Welfare & Disability Benefits (CAWAD)
Sue Grafe, Nurse Practitioner, Good Shepherd Centres
Debbie Christie, Executive Director, Hamilton Council on Aging
Theresa Agnew, Nurse Practitioner, RNAO Board of Directors Member

Register by
November 1st:

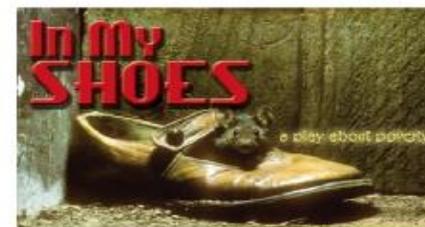
There is no charge to attend the event but please register by using the online form at the link below or by leaving a message at this toll free number 1-800-268-7199 ext. 214.

http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=122&ContentID=670&SiteNodeID=112&BL_ExpandID

HSR bus tickets available upon request

Non-perishable food items/monetary contributions welcomed for the Hamilton Food Bank

Poster Design: Marlene Gies RN, IBCH



You are warmly invited to attend

In My Shoes: A Play about Poverty

Friday, June 18, 2010
6:00-8:00 pm

Innis Town Hall Theatre
2 Sussex Avenue, Toronto, Ontario
(Nearest subway: St. George)

To view a map, please click here:
<http://www.toronto.ca/canhs/contact.html>

Come join us for a special community performance of **In My Shoes: A Play About Poverty** that shares experiences and reflections of people living in poverty in Sault Ste. Marie. The play will be followed by a discussion with the audience.

To help us plan the food, please register online at: www.mso.org
If you have any questions or would like to identify any special needs or would prefer to register by phone, please call Kayla at 416-599-1925 ext. 214 or 1-800-268-7199 ext. 214

Admission: Free of Charge
Donations will be gratefully received for the Sault Ste. Marie Soup Kitchen Community Centre Theatre Group.

Wheelchair accessible Seent Free

Sponsored by:
Association of Ontario Health Centres
Income Security Advocacy Centre
Meal Exchange
Nursing Students of Ontario
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
Social Planning Network of Ontario
Social Planning Toronto
Voices from the Street

Working together on Issues

Five Principles for a New Nutritional Supplement Program

www.25in5.ca/take-action

Joint Statement on Implications of 2010 Ontario Budget for Food Security and Health

<http://putfoodinthebudget.ca/>

Mother fears changes to son's diet allowance

One in five people on welfare rely on supplement to meet special food needs

Article

Published On Wed May 26 2010

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Laurie Monsebraaten
Social Justice Reporter

Milk is one of Toronto toddler Markus Schrader's favourite foods.

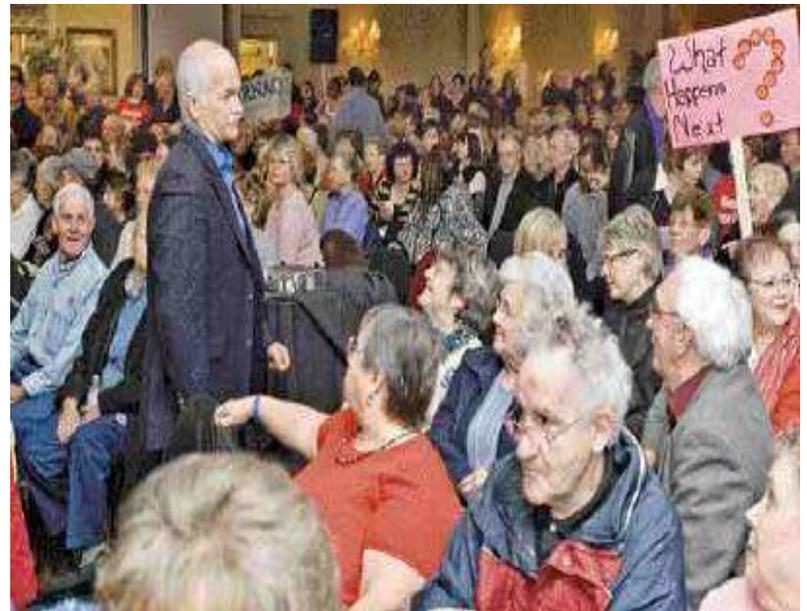
But the active 3-year-old is lactose-intolerant, meaning his mother has to pay \$8 for four litres of lactose-free milk — nearly double the cost of regular milk.



Single mom Theresa Schrader worries that she'll lose the extra \$97 a month she receives to buy special milk for her 3-year-old son Markus, who is lactose-intolerant.

Action Alerts

April and Dec 2008:
RNAO asks nurses
to email Premier and
Minister to stop
competitive bidding
and prevent long-
term for-profit
privatization of home
care...



Supporting Creative Ways

Poor No More

A feature documentary...with Mary Walsh



To Enable People to Influence Policy Through
the Political Action of Telling their Stories
Home Safe: Sky Works Charitable Foundation
Poor No More

Take Your MPP to Work



- RNAO Take Your MPP to Work Tool Kit 2010
- RNAO (2006). 5 Media Relations Guide. RNAO Political Action Kit.



Structural Violence: Discrimination and Stigma as Determinants of Health

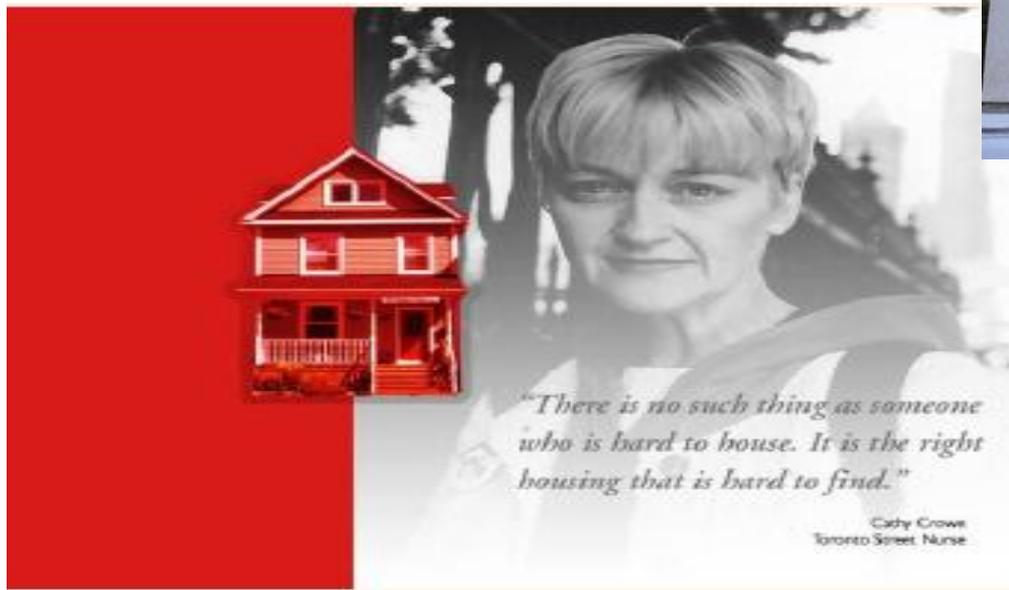
- Position Statement Against Racism
- Position Statement on Respecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- Best Practice Guidelines:
 - Client-Centred Care
 - Embracing Cultural Diversity in Health Care: Developing Cultural Competency
 - Woman Abuse
 - Supporting Clients on Methadone Maintenance Tx

RNs: Consider Running for Office



RNAO members
who took the 2006
RN Candidate
Training Program

“We went from shutting our hospital down to getting a grant to revamp it,” said Al Duffy, vice-chair of the Grace’s board of trustees. “Thank God for by-elections.” Feb. 4, 2010 Toronto Star





RNAO (2006). Section 3. Working Together. RNAO Political Action Kit.

RNAO (2006). Section. Becoming Active in an Election. RNAO Political Action Kit.

All Candidates' Debate on Poverty and Health

Moderated by Toronto Star Columnist Carol Gair

Tuesday, September 25, 2007
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Innis Town Hall

Co-located with the George Meier and James Keenan
and staff of Blue Cross, Toronto

Sponsored by:
Health Services Agency/Healthy
Women's Health Agency/United
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

Light refreshments will be served

If you need more copies, please email us at info@hsc.ca or call us at 416-921-7344 by September 21st

Working with Nurses as Voters

Federal and provincial election resources available at

www.rnao.org include:

- RNAO platform
- Questions to ask
- Platform comparisons
- Events:
 - Candidates' meetings organized around issues



Working within health organizations

The most important things you need to know about *your health* may not be as obvious as you think.

Health = A rewarding job with a living wage
Little control at work, high stress, low pay, or unemployment all contribute to poor health.
Your job makes a difference.

Health = Food on the table and a place to call home
Having access to healthy, safe, and affordable food and housing is essential to being healthy.
Access to food and shelter makes a difference.

Health = Having options and opportunities
The thing that contributes most to your health is how much money you have. More money means having more opportunities to be healthy.
Money makes a difference.

Health = A good start in life
Prenatal and childhood experiences set the stage for lifelong health and well-being.
Your childhood makes a difference.

Health = Community belonging
A community that offers support, respect, and opportunities to participate helps us all be healthy.
Feeling included makes a difference.

How can you make a difference?
Action to improve the things that make ALL of us healthy depends on ALL of our support.
**Start a conversation.
Share what you know.**

To learn more, call the Sudbury & District Health Unit at (705) 522-9200, ext. 515 or visit www.sdh.u.com.

Make it a **Healthy Day!**
Sudbury & District Health Unit
Service & well-being in Sudbury & its district.



Vancouver Coastal Health Population Health: Advocacy Guidelines and Resources

Advocacy Framework pp.6-8

On advocacy for poverty reducing policies: “many health researchers and workers have told me personally that raising such issues can be a ‘career-threatening move.’”

Raphael 2009b

Key Principles Central to Public Health Advocacy

- **Human rights**-basis for advocacy
- **Equity**-advocacy for equality of access, participation, and outcomes in health & health service utilization and for reduction of inequalities in health
- **Democracy**-enables people, organizations, and communities to participate in decision-making which impacts health
- **Inclusion**--working in partnership to ensure inclusion across sectors, communities, individuals, and representative organizations Public Health Advocacy Toolkit, Ireland

Politics is too important to leave to politicians...

Plutarch:

They are wrong who think that politics is like an ocean voyage or a military campaign, something to be done with some end in view, or something which levels off as soon as that end is reached. It is not a public chore, to be got over with; it is a way of life. (Stone 2002: 34)

References

- Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2008). Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final report on the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva: World Health Organization. http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en
- Falk-Rafael, A. (2005). Speaking Truth to Power: Nursing's Legacy and Moral Imperative. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 28 (3), 212-223.
- Public Health Alliance for the island of Ireland (2007). Public Health Advocacy Toolkit. Belfast and Dublin: Authors. <http://advocacy.phaii.org/>

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http://www.rnao.org/Page.asp?PageID=835&SiteNodeID=390&BL_ExpandID=

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- Raphael, D. (2009b). Poverty, Human Development, and Health in Canada: Research, Practice, and Advocacy Dilemmas. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*. 41(2), 7-18.
- Stone, D. (2002). *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. New York: W.W. Norton

Printed Resources

- Hofrichter, R. (2003). Health and Social Justice: Politics, Ideology, and Inequity in the Distribution of Disease A Public Health Reader. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons.
- Mikkonen, J. & Raphael, D. (2010). Social Determinants of Health: The Canadian Facts. Toronto: York University.
<http://www.thecanadianfacts.org>
- Raphael, D. ed. (2009c). Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Sussman, A. (2007). The Art of the Possible: A Handbook for Political Activism. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.

Media Resources

- Poor No More (2010) by Filmmakers for Social Justice www.poornomore.ca
- Home Safe Calgary/Toronto/Hamilton (2009-2010) by Skyworks Foundation www.skyworksfoundation.org

Both received support from many community organizations including CNA & RNAO

Contact Information

Lynn Anne Mulrooney, RN, MPH, PhD

Senior Policy Analyst

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

158 Pearl Street

Toronto, ON M5H 1L3

Email: lmulrooney@rnao.org

Phone: 416 408-5616

Toll free in Ontario 1-800-268-7199 ext. 238