



**OHHN - Collaborative Policy Scan Project  
Summary Report**

for Northwestern Healthy Living Partnership

## Provision Notes:

The **Ontario Heart Health Network** (OHHN) is the provincial network that supports the OHHP-Taking Action for Healthy Living Community Partnerships across six regions in Ontario.

The OHHN Policy Work Group conducted a scan of policies *across the 36 OHHP-Taking Action for Healthy Living Community Partnerships in five areas*: 1) access to nutritious foods; 2) access to recreation and physical activity; 3) active transportation and the built environment; 4) prevention of alcohol misuse and 5) prevention of tobacco use and exposure *across three sectors* a) *Education*: school boards; b) *Health Care*: hospitals as a worksite (e.g. what policies exist on these topics for health care staff) and c) *Government* (district/region; county; municipality; township).

## Purpose

The purpose of this scan was to *create a baseline inventory of policies that exist* at the provincial level based on local data to inform the transition of OHHP-Taking Action for Healthy Living Community Partnerships to Healthy Community Partnerships under the Ministry of Health Promotion's new Healthy Communities Ontario approach to be implemented in 2010.

[www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/default.asp](http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/default.asp)

## Policy is defined as:

- a principle, value or course of action that guides present and future decision-making;
- can be implemented in a variety of settings, such as schools, worksites and community;
- can be formal or informal, but it should specify expectations, regulations and guides to action;
- can provide more equitable access to determinants of health such as income, housing, and education; and
- can have a consequence for non-compliance and some method of enforcement

Ontario Heart Health Network. (2007) Volume 1: Building Healthy Policy across Ontario through Community Partnerships. [www.ohhn.net](http://www.ohhn.net)

## About this Scan and the Information Found:

The policy questions developed for this scan were informed by evidence-based reports and publications.

There is recognition that not all policies would be applicable for all areas in Ontario.

A protocol book was written and utilized by the consultants contracted to complete this policy scan.

The data collected for this scan was between October 26, 2009 and December 13, 2009. Data was collected by scanning publicly available websites and/or contacting representatives via telephone or email. The source of information is identified for each question.

Where policies exist (e.g. "yes" has been chosen for level of government, school board and hospital), there will be a list of the number of policies that exist and where they are located.

For example the:

- **Provincial Summary** lists the number of policies that exist within the six OHHN Region;
- **Six OHHN Regional Summaries** lists the number of policies that exist within each of the OHHP-TAFHL Community Partnerships within that region;
- **36 OHHP-TAFHL Community Partnerships** lists the number of policies that exist by identifying the level of government, school board and hospital name.

**\*\*The exception to the rule is Level of Government: Question # 3.2 (Official Plan); listed is the number of policies that DO NOT EXIST.**

Notes written by the consultant are not included in this summary report. Please refer to the individual reports to review notes written.

More information about this policy scan is available at [www.ohhn.net](http://www.ohhn.net)

# Local Government Summary

## Section 1: Access to Nutritious Food

### 1.1 Policies that restrict advertising of food products to children (e.g. transit ads, no ads for specific foods in recreation centres)

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

### 1.2 Policies that support the availability of healthy foods in: vending machines

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

### 1.3 Policies that support the availability of healthy foods in: snack bars and cafeterias

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

### 1.4 Policies that support the availability of healthy foods in: concession stands in public places (e.g. Foods available for sale at snack bars in recreation centres)

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

### 1.5 Food and Nutrition Policy to encourage city/county/municipal/ regional-wide support for local sustainable agriculture

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

### 1.6 Policies that support community gardens such as: garden water use policy

Existence of a Policy

17 No  
1 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
1 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

1 General Community  
0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
0 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
0 Families/Parents  
0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

Kenora District->Dryden

### 1.7 Policies that support community gardens such as: vacant lots policy to establish guidelines for public use of private land and city-owned vacant lots for gardening

Existence of a Policy

17 No  
1 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
1 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

1 General Community  
0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
0 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
0 Families/Parents  
0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

Kenora District->Dryden

### 1.8 Policies that support community gardens such as: interim land use policies to address the lack of open space for gardening in apartment complexes and other multi-unit dwellings

Existence of a Policy

17 No  
1 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
1 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

1 General Community  
0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
0 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
0 Families/Parents  
0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

**1.9 Policy to source and procure local foods (e.g. % of foods used must be local)**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.10 Policy to support the availability of a broader variety of foods available from street vendors (e.g. city street vending bylaw and licensing bylaws)**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.11 Policies that support the establishment of Farmers Markets or the revision of existing policies that impede their establishment**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.12 Policy related to reductions in the use of artificially produced trans fat contained and sold in regional/district/county/municipally-operated facilities**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.13 Policies that support breastfeeding**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.14 Policies related to welfare supplements being used to purchase nutritious foods**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.15 Does the regional/district/county/municipality promote or sponsor healthy food access maps? (e.g. a map of where to purchase fruit & vegetables; locally grown products)**

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.16 Does the regional/district/county/municipality have a Food Charter?**

18 No  
0 Yes

**1.17 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality committee that focuses on policies related to access to nutritious food (i.e. Food Policy Council)?**

18 No  
0 Yes

**Section 2: Access To Recreation and Physical Activity**

**2.1 Policies to ensure people living on low income have access to regional/district/county/municipality recreation/sport programs**

Existence of a Policy

9 No  
9 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
9 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

0 General Community  
1 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
1 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
1 Families/Parents  
9 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

Kenora District->Dryden  
Kenora District->Kenora  
Rainy River District->Emo

Kenora District->Ear Falls  
Kenora District->Red Lake  
Rainy River District->Fort Frances

Kenora District->Ignace  
Kenora District->Sioux Lookout  
Rainy River District->Rainy River

**2.2 Regional/district/county/municipality recreation policies related to intramurals and sport programs to ensure opportunity for everyone (e.g. no-cut intramurals, no cut sports policies)**

Existence of a Policy

18 No  
0 Yes

**2.3 Regional/district/county/municipality Interim Land Use Policies to address the lack of open space for recreation in apartment complexes and other multi-unit dwellings.**

Existence of a Policy

15 No  
3 Yes

Level of Policy

1 In Development  
2 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

3 General Community  
0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
0 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
0 Families/Parents  
0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

Kenora District->Kenora

Kenora District->Sioux Lookout

Rainy River District->Chapple

**2.4 Regional/district/county/municipality Vacant Lots Policy to establish guidelines for public use of private land and city-owned vacant lots.**

Existence of a Policy

16 No  
2 Yes

Level of Policy

1 In Development  
1 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

2 General Community  
0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )  
0 Youth (13-18)  
0 Adults  
0 Families/Parents  
0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations

Kenora District->Kenora

Rainy River District->Chapple

**2.5 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality Parks Master Plan?**

17 No  
1 Yes

Kenora District->Dryden

**2.6 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality Recreation Master Plan?**

17 No  
1 Yes

Kenora District->Dryden

**Section 3: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**3.1 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality public transportation system?**

16 No  
2 Yes

Kenora District->Kenora

Rainy River District->Fort Frances

**3.2 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality Official Plan?**

18 Yes  
0 No  
0 unknown: not able to find

**3.2.1** Does the official plan: Incorporate active transportation policies?

12 No  
3 Yes  
3 Unknown

**3.2.2** Does the official plan: Include risk management policies to support and encourage physical activity?

15 No  
0 Yes  
3 Unknown

**3.2.3** Does the official plan: Have mixed land-use/priority land-use policies that incorporate active transportation?

14 No  
1 Yes  
3 Unknown

**3.2.4** Does the official plan: Identify plans for infrastructure (i.e. Sidewalks; bike lanes; shared-use paths) that support active transportation?

12 No  
3 Yes  
3 Unknown

**3.3 Is there a regional/district/county/municipality Transportation Demand Management Plan that incorporates active transportation?**

18 No  
0 Yes

**Section 4: PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL MISUSE**

**4.1 Municipal Alcohol Policy**

| Existence of a Policy          | Level of Policy                                | Intended Population for the Policy         |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 11 No<br>7 Yes                 | 0 In Development<br>7 Implemented<br>0 Unknown | 4 General Community<br>3 Adults<br>0 Youth |
| Kenora District->Dryden        | Kenora District->Kenora                        | Kenora District->Red Lake                  |
| Kenora District->Sioux Lookout | Rainy River District->Fort Frances             | Rainy River District->Lake of the Woods    |
| Kenora District->Pickle Lake   |  |  |

**4.2 Policy that allows for special occasion permits (e.g. Oktoberfest events, Film Festival, Civic events not on municipal property)**

| Existence of a Policy             | Level of Policy                                | Intended Population for the Policy                                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 10 No<br>8 Yes                    | 0 In Development<br>8 Implemented<br>0 Unknown | 7 General Community<br>1 Adults<br>0 Licensed Outlets<br>0 Serving Staff |
| Kenora District->Dryden           | Kenora District->Kenora                        | Kenora District->Red Lake  |
| Kenora District->Sioux Lookout    | Rainy River District->Fort Frances             | Rainy River District->Lake of the Woods                                  |
| Rainy River District->Rainy River | Kenora District->Pickle Lake                   |  |

**4.3 Policies related to "Dial-a-Bottle" services**

Existence of a Policy  
18 No  
0 Yes

**4.4 Policy that limits the number of licensed premises (outlet density) within a geographic area**

Existence of a Policy  
18 No  
0 Yes

**4.5 Policy that supports Safer Bars training**

| Existence of a Policy                   | Level of Policy                                | Intended Population for the Policy                                       |
|---|--|--|
| 13 No<br>5 Yes                          | 0 In Development<br>5 Implemented<br>0 Unknown | 0 General Community<br>0 Adults<br>3 Licensed Outlets<br>5 Serving Staff |
| Kenora District->Kenora                 | Kenora District->Sioux Lookout                 | Rainy River District->Fort Frances                                       |
| Rainy River District->Lake of the Woods | Kenora District->Pickle Lake                   |  |

**4.6 Policies to reduce/prevent service to minors or to intoxicated patrons (above the provincial requirements).**

Existence of a Policy  
18 No  
0 Yes

**4.7 Are there special occasion permits that allow alcohol to be sold?**

11 No  
7 Yes  
If yes, are there limits on who receives these permits (e.g. based on # requested in past, past experience with requestor, past breaches)?

|  |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 No<br>0 Yes<br>6 unknown: not able to find |                                    |   |
| Kenora District->Dryden                      | Kenora District->Kenora            | Kenora District->Red Lake               |
| Kenora District->Sioux Lookout               | Rainy River District->Fort Frances | Rainy River District->Lake of the Woods |
| Kenora District->Pickle Lake                 |                                    |   |

**4.8 Are there public documents that provide summary information (i.e. annual statistics on the number and type of such interventions) regarding licensing premises of who have been fined or penalized for over-service?**

18 No  
0 Yes

## Section 5: PREVENTION OF TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE

### 5.1 Policies that limit exposure to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke by prohibiting tobacco use in regional/district/county/municipality owned outdoor spaces (i.e. parks, beaches, sports fields).

| Existence of a Policy          | Level of Policy                                | Intended Population for the Policy  |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 17 No<br>1 Yes                 | 0 In Development<br>1 Implemented<br>0 Unknown | 1 General Community<br>0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )<br>0 Youth (13-18)<br>0 Adults<br>0 Families/Parents<br>0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations |
| Kenora District->Sioux Lookout |  |   |

### 5.2 Policy that bans tobacco use within designated distance of public entrances and exits to regional/district/county/municipality buildings providing local government services.

| Existence of a Policy     | Level of Policy                                | Intended Population for the Policy  |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 16 No<br>2 Yes            | 0 In Development<br>2 Implemented<br>0 Unknown | 2 General Community<br>0 Children ( up tp 12 years of age )<br>0 Youth (13-18)<br>0 Adults<br>0 Families/Parents<br>0 Individuals living in Low-income Situations |
| Kenora District->Red Lake | Kenora District->Sioux Lookout                 |   |

### 5.3 Are you aware of any tobacco-free sport and recreation policies at local sports clubs (i.e. no smoking at soccer fields)?

18 No  
0 Yes

### 5.4 Are you aware of retail policies (i.e. mall management) that prohibit tobacco use on outdoor retail property (i.e. parking lots, garages, entrances and exits)?

17 No  
1 Yes

Kenora District->Sioux Lookout

### 5.5 Are you aware of policies for multi-unit dwelling property owners, managers and tenants for the availability of smoke-free buildings (e.g. policies enacted by landlords or building owners)?

18 No  
0 Yes

# School Boards Summary

## Section 1: Access to Nutritious Food

### 1.1 School board policies that support the availability of healthy foods: in vending machines

| Existence of a Policy | Level of Policy  | Intended Population for the Policy |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 No                  | 0 In Development | 1 All Students                     |
| 1 Yes                 | 1 Implemented    | 0 Elementary Students              |
|                       | 0 Unknown        | 0 Secondary Students               |
|                       |                  | 0 Families/Parents                 |

Northwest Catholic District School Board

### 1.2 School board policies that support the availability of healthy foods: in snack bars and cafeterias

| Existence of a Policy | Level of Policy  | Intended Population for the Policy |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 No                  | 0 In Development | 1 All Students                     |
| 1 Yes                 | 1 Implemented    | 0 Elementary Students              |
|                       | 0 Unknown        | 0 Secondary Students               |
|                       |                  | 0 Families/Parents                 |

Northwest Catholic District School Board

### 1.3 School board policies that support the availability of healthy foods: at meetings

| Existence of a Policy |
|-----------------------|
| 3 No                  |
| 0 Yes                 |

### 1.4 School board policies that support the availability of healthy foods: for or at fundraising activities

| Existence of a Policy |
|-----------------------|
| 3 No                  |
| 0 Yes                 |

### 1.5 School board policies that support the availability of healthy foods: in breakfast, lunch or snack programs

| Existence of a Policy | Level of Policy  | Intended Population for the Policy |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 No                  | 0 In Development | 1 All Students                     |
| 1 Yes                 | 1 Implemented    | 0 Elementary Students              |
|                       | 0 Unknown        | 0 Secondary Students               |
|                       |                  | 0 Families/Parents                 |

Northwest Catholic District School Board

### 1.6 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support the availability of healthy foods: in vending machines

| Aware of Options |
|------------------|
| 3 No             |
| 0 Yes            |

### 1.7 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support the availability of healthy foods: in snack bars and cafeterias

| Aware of Options |
|------------------|
| 2 No             |
| 1 Yes            |

Northwest Catholic District School Board

### 1.8 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support the availability of healthy foods: at meetings

| Aware of Options |
|------------------|
| 3 No             |
| 0 Yes            |

### 1.9 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support the availability of healthy foods: for or at fundraising activities

Aware of Options

3 No  
0 Yes

**1.10 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support the availability of healthy foods: in breakfast, lunch or snack programs.**

Aware of Options

2 No  
1 Yes

Northwest Catholic District School Board

**1.11 School board policies that support school gardens**

Existence of a Policy

3 No  
0 Yes

**1.12 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools that support school gardens**

Aware of Options

2 No  
1 Yes

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

**Section 2: Access To Recreation and Physical Activity**

**2.1 School board policies for Mixed Use of School Grounds**

Existence of a Policy

0 No  
3 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
3 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Intended Population for the Policy

3 All Students  
0 Elementary Students  
0 Secondary Students  
3 Families/Parents

Northwest Catholic District School Board

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

Rainy River District School Board

**2.2 Is the School Board Representative aware of individual schools policies for Mixed Use of School Grounds**

Aware of Options

3 No  
0 Yes

**2.3 School board policies that reduce sedentary screen time while on school property (e.g. policies limiting screen time in preschool and after-school programs)**

Existence of a Policy

3 No  
0 Yes

**2.4 Is the School Board Representative aware of any schools that have policies that reduce sedentary screen time while on school property (e.g. policies limiting screen time in preschool and after-school programs)**

Aware of Options

3 No  
0 Yes

**Section 3: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

**3.1 Does the school board have Active transportation policies for students to attend school (e.g. cycling; walking; walking school buses; active and safe routes to school policies)**

Existence of a Policy

3 No  
0 Yes

**3.2 Is the school board representative aware of any schools that have Active transportation policies for students to attend school?**

Aware of Options

3 No  
0 Yes

## Section 4: PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL MISUSE

### 4.1 School board policies regarding alcohol prevention programs (beyond curriculum requirements)

| Existence of a Policy | Level of Policy  | Intended Population for the Policy |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 No                  | 0 In Development | 1 All Students                     |
| 1 Yes                 | 1 Implemented    | 0 Elementary Students              |
|                       | 0 Unknown        | 0 Secondary Students               |
|                       |                  | 0 Families/Parents                 |

Rainy River District School Board

### 4.2 Is the school board representative aware of any individual school implementing policies regarding alcohol prevention programs beyond curriculum requirements?

| Existence of a Policy |
|-----------------------|
| 3 No                  |
| 0 Yes                 |

## Section 5: PREVENTION OF TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE

### 5.1 School board policies that promote tobacco-free sport and recreation activities when off the school site.

| Existence of a Policy | Level of Policy  | Intended Population for the Policy |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 No                  | 0 In Development | 2 All Students                     |
| 2 Yes                 | 2 Implemented    | 0 Elementary Students              |
|                       | 0 Unknown        | 0 Secondary Students               |
|                       |                  | 0 Families/Parents                 |

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

Rainy River District School Board

### 5.2 Is the school board representative aware of any schools that promote tobacco-free sport and recreation activities when off the school site?

| Aware of Options |
|------------------|
| 3 No             |
| 0 Yes            |

# Hospitals Summary

## Section 1: Access to Nutritious Food

### 1.1 Hospital policy that supports the availability of healthy foods: in vending machines

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

### 1.2 Hospital policy that supports the availability of healthy foods: in snack bars and cafeterias

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

### 1.3 Hospital policy that supports the availability of healthy foods: at meetings

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

### 1.4 Hospital policy that supports the availability of healthy foods: for or at fundraising activities

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

## Section 2: Access To Recreation and Physical Activity

### 2.1 Policies to support health care staff to engage in active recreation (i.e. subsidies for recreation membership)

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

### 2.2 Policies to support health care staff to engage in active recreation while at work (i.e. permission to leave the premises; development of walking or multi-use paths or trails on-site; extended lunch for physical activity).

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

## Section 3: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### 3.1 Policies to support health care staff to engage in active transportation to attend work.

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes

## Section 4: PREVENTION OF ALCOHOL MISUSE

### 4.1 Policies to support health care staff to access alcohol prevention programs (i.e. through an Employee Assistance Program; extended health benefits)

Existence of a Policy

2 No  
4 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
4 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Atikokan General Hospital  
Dryden Regional Health Centre

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

Red Lake Hospital

## Section 5: PREVENTION OF TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE

### 5.1 Policies that expand the definition of smoke-free health care facilities to include the following: Smoke-free grounds

Existence of a Policy

1 No  
5 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
5 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Riverside Health Care Facilities  
Red Lake Hospital

Atikokan General Hospital  
Dryden Regional Health Centre

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

**5.2 Policies that expand the definition of smoke-free health care facilities to include the following: Availability of cessation support to employees**

Existence of a Policy

1 No  
5 Yes

Level of Policy

0 In Development  
5 Implemented  
0 Unknown

Riverside Health Care Facilities  
Red Lake Hospital

Atikokan General Hospital  
Dryden Regional Health Centre

Lake of the Woods District Hospital

**5.3 Policies that expand the definition of smoke-free health care facilities to include the following: Inclusion of cessation treatment in benefits for employees**

Existence of a Policy

6 No  
0 Yes