

May 29, 2006

Greetings to the Participants of Building Bridges and Public Policy Conference

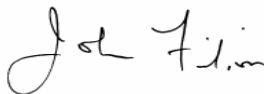
I am pleased to extend greetings and warm wishes to the Building Bridges and Public Policy participants for coming together today to collaborate on public policy for creating healthy communities and to celebrate current policy and project successes.

Since it was created in 1998 by Toronto Public Health and community partners, the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition has made significant contributions in strengthening cancer prevention efforts in the City of Toronto and beyond. The facilitative leadership of Toronto Public Health has enabled diverse stakeholders, numbering over 150 members from 60 agencies, to come together to maximize resources .

A report to the Board of Health from September 2000, noted that participation in coalitions, community and professional collaborations is a key strategy for Toronto Public Health to fulfill provincially mandated and locally determined programs. This has been clearly evident through the **efforts of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition and its dedicated partners; the greater the level of local community involvement the larger the impact will be.**

As the burden of cancer and chronic diseases grows, so will the pressure to act, and on behalf of the City of Toronto Board of Health, I congratulate the participants of this conference today for coming to Toronto from as far as Edmonton to work with the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition to build bridges to public policy and to engage in continued advocacy for health.

Best wishes,



John Filion, Councillor
Chair, Board of Health