



NEWS

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

ONTARIO ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. Arlene King Chosen By All-Party Legislative Committee

NEWS

April 23, 2009
2009/nr-012

Ontario announced today the appointment of Dr. Arlene King as the province's new Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective June 15, 2009.

Dr. King is currently Director General of the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

She has been working in the field of public health since 1992 and has held various positions in communicable disease control at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, and served as a Medical Officer of Health in Burnaby and Vancouver, B.C.

Dr. King was selected by a special committee of the Legislature, comprised of representatives from all three political parties – as specified in amendments made to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* in 2004.

Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Williams will reassume his position as Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Health Protection and Prevention in June.

Dr. Williams has served as the acting Chief Medical Officer of Health since November 2007. His skillful leadership of Ontario province's public health system was clearly evident – particularly during the listeriosis outbreak in 2008.

QUOTES

"As a widely recognized expert in immunization, infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness, Dr. King is a superb choice to take on the public health leadership of this province and to continue the crucial work of safeguarding the health of Ontarians. I'd also like to thank Dr. Williams for leading the province's public health system with such a steady hand during the past 16 months."

- David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"It's an honour to be taking on the challenges of heading up the largest public health system in the country. A number of substantial steps have been taken in recent years to strengthen public health in the province. I look forward to building on these initiatives and to further improving the health and well-being of Ontarians."

- Dr. King

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____ ✓

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair ✓	Committee ✓
CAO ✓	
Corporate Services	Council
Environment, Transportation and Planning Services	
Employee and Business Services May 7/09	G.C.
Finance	
Health Services ✓	File MOH ✓
Human Services	
Peel Living	

HE-C3-2

QUICK FACTS

- The Chief Medical Officer of Health plays a critical role in leading the public health system as a whole – focusing on the legislated obligations as outlined in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, linking with the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and providing public health advice both within and beyond government.
- The position of permanent CMOH has been vacant since December 2006 when Dr. Sheela Basrur stepped down from the position.

LEARN MORE

Read about [public health](#) initiatives in the province.

For public inquires call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only)

Steve Erwin, Minister's Office, 416-326-3986
Andrew Morrison, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,
416-314-6197

ontario.ca/health-news
Disponible en français

DR. ARLENE KING'S BIOGRAPHY

April 23, 2009

Dr. Arlene King – an international expert in immunization, infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness – has been Director General of the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infections Diseases at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) since December 2007.

This was her latest role at Health Canada/Public Health Agency of Canada where she has been since 1999. Prior to this position, Dr. King was Director General of Pandemic Preparedness at PHAC from March 2006 to December 2007.

Prior to joining Health Canada, Dr. King held various positions in communicable disease control at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control Society from 1995 to 1999.

She served as the Medical Officer of Health in Burnaby, B.C. from 1992 to 1994, and a Unit Medical Officer of Health in Vancouver in 1992.

Dr. King practiced medicine as a family physician in Fairview, Alberta from 1985 to 1989.

She received her medical degree from McMaster University in 1981 and certification in Family Medicine from the University of Calgary in 1984. In 1990, she received a Masters Degree in Health Sciences from the University of British Columbia and in 1992, became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Community Medicine. She continues to be an Adjunct Professor in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC.

In 2003, she received Health Canada's Deputy Minister's Award of Merit for her contribution to Canada's National SARS Response and in 2006, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Medal for establishing the Pandemic Preparedness Secretariat as Canada's focal point for health sector pandemic preparedness.

Dr. King is on two World Health Organization (WHO) advisory committees on pandemic preparedness and has been a consultant to the WHO on polio, SARS and influenza, and to the World Bank and to the Canadian International Development Agency on Emerging Infectious Diseases. She is a member of the Pan American Health Organization technical advisory group on immunization and belongs to the WHO Africa Region Polio Eradication Certification Commission. From 2004 to 2006, she served on the Board of the Global Alliance on Immunization (GAVI).