

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

**Message from the Minister of Health
Public Health 2017
June 6-8, 2017**

I would like to offer my sincere greetings and appreciation to the delegates and attendees at the 2017 Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Conference.

Unfortunately, my schedule does not allow me to be with you in person this year, though I look forward to hearing about the conference discussions and outcomes from Dr. Theresa Tam, interim Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, who will be in attendance. While I am unable to attend, I am pleased to share this message with all attendees and Canadian Public Health Association members. The CPHA plays an important role in protecting, maintaining and improving the health of Canadians.

In Canada, and around the world, the public health challenges we face are increasingly complex and interconnected, stretching far beyond the traditional boundaries and resource capacities of the health care system. Addressing these issues requires collaboration, cooperation and innovation.

The annual CPHA Conference is an important national forum for public health professionals to discuss strategies for strengthening public health and to promote evidence-informed policies and practices. The insights from this dialogue will enable us to face pressing public health challenges head on.

I am encouraged to see that this year's conference has a strong focus on new and innovative approaches across a broad spectrum of public health areas, including sexual health, youth, Indigenous health, healthy living, mental health, health promotion and harm reduction.

I am also pleased to see that a plenary session is devoted entirely to the ongoing opioid crisis in Canada. As you know, responding to this crisis, which has needlessly and tragically affected so many Canadian lives, has been a top priority for both the federal government and for me, personally. In fact, the opioid crisis is exactly the kind of complex challenge that can be solved only through partnerships, shared perspectives and ingenuity. Your input and expertise are vital to addressing this crisis.

Thank you, once again, for your important efforts on behalf of Canadians. I wish you all the best and a very successful and constructive conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Philpott".

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.