

THE ADVOCATE



Government Affairs Advisory

A Publication of March of Dimes Canada

In This Issue

Page

March of Dimes presents to key
federal Standing Committee 1

Lack of Affordable Housing affects
many people with disabilities 2

Sharing resources and support nationally 3

Breathing meaning into a pivotal
international agreement 4

How we will comply:
The AODA Customer Service Standard 5

The issue of caregiving:
It's more relevant than you think 5

AODA Review underway –
Charles Beer will travel the province 8

A Canadian portrait of giving:
Are there any surprises? 11

William Shatner. He's everywhere! 13

Featuring Contributions From:

Federal Minister of Health
Hon. Leona Aglukkaq 2

Catherine Graham Bell 4

Frank Nyitray and Donna Ryder's Study 9

President Obama's campaign
manager David Plouffe 14



During post committee discussions with opposition members, Hon. Tony Martin, MP for Sault Ste. Marie and Standing Committee Member, consults with March of Dimes representatives Steven Christianson and Janet Macmaster.

March of Dimes Speaks Out on Poverty

March of Dimes representatives Steven Christianson and Janet Macmaster appeared before the federal Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday June 2nd.

The Committee requested the testimony of March of Dimes Canada on the role and nature of the federal contribution to reducing poverty in Canada.

As with our April 20th appearance before the provincial Standing Committee on Social Policy



(re. Bill 152), our presentation focused on the need for a framework that supports affordable/supportive housing, a home modification strategy and a national caregiving plan that should be coordinated through a National Disability Act.

The Hansard of the federal presentation may be found at the Parliamentary site <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=3949708&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2>

The March of Dimes presentation to the Ontario Standing Committee on Social Policy regarding poverty reduction may be found at the following link:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/20-APR-2009-SP028.pdf

All recommendations in March of Dimes' provincial presentation on Bill 152 were adopted by the Committee and written into the final version of the Bill. Special thanks to March of Dimes spokesperson, Bobbi Moore, and volunteer Frank Nyitray, for their participation in delivering testimony at Queen's Park.

Province Moves on Affordable Housing Consultation

On Thursday June 4th, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson announced the Government's long-awaited consultation on affordable housing in Ontario. March of Dimes has been pressing the Minister and his Parliamentary Assistant for several months to proceed with this consultation. This is a great move!

March of Dimes was scheduled to participate in the Minister's roundtable on July 22nd.

This was our chance to really raise the volume on this issue. We need to address the wait lists for people who need supportive housing. The Province needs to coordinate social housing funding with the funding of supportive housing for people with disabilities – the two pieces necessarily must co-exist, especially if we are to not only address wait lists and current need, but also to address the incidence of poverty.

Currently, our Advocacy machine is seeking and coordinating your feedback and preparing our Official Response paper that will advocate for supportive housing and the needs of our consumers. We are also working with our experts in March of Dimes' Communications Department to launch of a much broader campaign on this issue as well as helping generate media coverage on this much-needed area.

So stay tuned.

In the immediate instance, we look forward to receiving your feedback at theadvocate@marchofdimes.ca.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq Announces Funding for NHCC Study

On Friday June 5th March of Dimes joined nearly 20 other disability groups, all members of Neurological Health Charities Canada the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and Barrie MP Patrick Brown for the federal funding announcement of \$15 million for the first-ever national study on the prevalence and impact of neurological diseases in Canada.



Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq (centre) with NHCC members

The research will help improve understanding of the experience people living with neurological conditions and the impact on their families and caregivers. The information acquired through this study will help governments and agencies like ours to plan the best programs, services and care that help an individual's ability to participate in life.

Expanding Our National Efforts: Caregiving, Supportive Housing and Home Modifications

Recent Initiatives In Ontario

As part of our collaboration with the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association and the Wellesley Institute on the affordable housing file, March of Dimes is an official endorser of Stableandaffordable.com, an initiative created to generate dialogue, knowledge exchange and action.



There not only needs to be a long-term strategy on the availability of affordable housing, we need to see the establishment of sustainable supports, programs and protections that help all Ontarians, particularly those with disabilities, to equitably access and maintain affordable housing in their communities.

Recent In British Columbia

March of Dimes Advocacy has also partnered with the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition. Our participation in this initiative not only expands our network and efforts to Canada's west coast, but also works to see the provincial adoption of a poverty reduction plan in British Columbia that addresses the following for people with disabilities:

1. Provide adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed.
2. Improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce.
3. Improve food security for low-income individuals and families.
4. Address homelessness and adopt a comprehensive affordable housing and supportive housing plan.
5. Provide universal publicly-funded child care.
6. Enhanced support for training and education for low-income people.
7. Enhance community mental health and home support services, and expand integrated approaches to prevention and health promotion services.

Visit the BC Poverty Reduction website as <http://bcpovertyreduction.ca> to learn more and read the Open Letter to the media as well as all elected officials in BC to which March of Dimes is a signatory.



Social Inclusion of Persons with Developmental Disabilities

The first draft regulation for this Act, which was passed in October 2008, is now available for public review. Among the areas of public review that March of Dimes has been asked by the Minister to provide comment:

- determine if someone has a developmental disability and set qualifications for assessors
 - identify services and supports that are eligible for direct funding, and
 - set criteria for entity and inspections and reviewing the takeover of an agency or entity.
- The deadline for public review and feedback was August 18.

March of Dimes Canada on National Roundtable Discussing Canada's Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

At the invitation of the federal Office of Disability Issues and the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, March of Dimes participated in the national roundtable that will help guide the process of Canada's formal ratification of the UN Treaty that was signed in March 2007.



Catherine Bell

At that time, Canada signed the Treaty at United Nations headquarters, and, in so doing, agreed to act in a manner that would not defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty. As the UN

Disability Secretariat explains, "The convention aims to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy all human rights on an equal basis with others." (www.un.org/disabilities)

Final ratification means that Canada will be legally bound to respect the specific provisions of the Treaty – under Canadian, provincial and international law.

Held in Ottawa June 25 and 26, this roundtable holds considerable significance for national disability legislation, as well as policy and program areas regarding accessibility of buildings and services, health, education, mobility, etc.

March of Dimes representative and Board Member, Catherine Graham Bell, described the roundtable as an exciting, concrete step forward. "The fact that the Government of Canada is hosting such a dialogue with national leaders in the disability field suggests a commitment to finding sustainable ways and means through which to breathe meaningful life into this international agreement," Ms. Bell explained. "Perhaps more significantly, this process sets the stage for identifying those areas where national disability legislation might have the most impact on the lives and livelihoods of Canadians with disabilities."

Tax Harmonization

We are working with partner agencies toward building a sector-wide response to the provincial government's tax harmonization proposal, first announced in the Ontario budget in March.

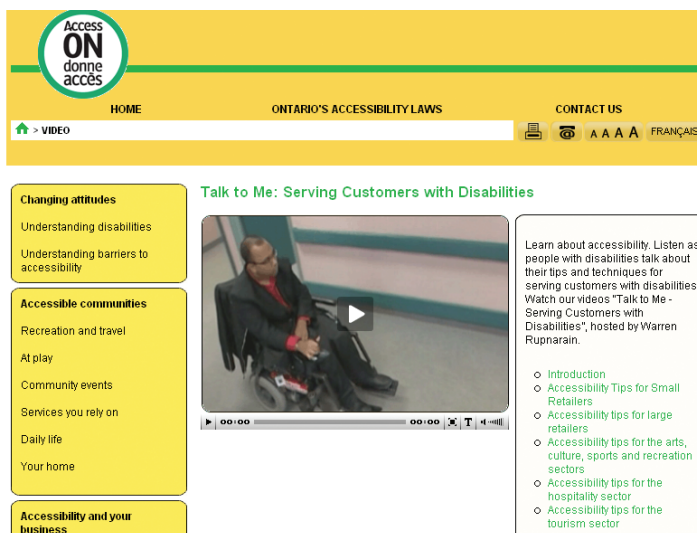
We aim to ensure that, as the government states, there will be no increased cost to



organizations like ours as a result of creating a single GST/PST tax structure.

This will evolve over the next several weeks, but we will keep you apprised as the process and the dialogue unfolds.

Serve-Ability & Talk to Me Making Sure We Comply with the AODA Customer Service Standard



Warren Rupnarain hosts "Talk to Me" videos

The goal of March of Dimes is to be fully compliant with the AODA's Customer Service regulation by January 2010 – a full two years prior to our legal requirement. We are doing this to demonstrate our leadership in this field and our commitment to ensuring that we deliver the absolute best service to people with disabilities.

An important part of our compliance involves you. The new law requires training and orientation, and the Government of Ontario has provided tools to help make that process as easy and fun as possible.

Warren Rupnarain, formally of March of Dimes' Warren's World, and now the Accessibility Coordinator for the Town of Markham, is the official host of the Government of Ontario's "Talk to Me" videos.

"Talk to Me" is part of the government's orientation to serving customers with disabilities. Watching the video is a big part of how we comply with the Customer Service Standard of the AODA. The video features people with a variety of disabilities offering tips and techniques to better serve customers with disabilities.

"Talk to Me" is found at the following website:
http://www.accesson.ca/ado/english/video/talk_to_me_intro.htm

The other part of our orientation and training is the online learning module, Serve-Ability. This module is fully interactive and takes 30-40 minutes to complete. Upon completion, each participant then receives a "Certificate of Completion" – a key component of demonstrating your awareness, sensitivity and training in serving customers with disabilities.

The Serve-Ability learning module is found at the following:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcsc/serve-ability/splash.html>

Think Tank focuses on Caregivers in Ontario, Canada and how to move forward

It is estimated there are 3 to 4 million caregivers in Canada and "Canadian caregivers contribute an estimated \$24 billion (plus) in unpaid labour per year." These are startling



statistics! And in today's world, the slogan that best describes the reality of our rapidly aging population – It's not *if*, it's *when* you will become a caregiver.

In mid-June, about 25 stakeholders from 18 agencies in the caregiver sector, including March of Dimes Canada, were invited to join Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) officials to contribute to a Think Tank, hosted by the newly-formed Ontario Caregiver Coalition (OCC). Since its inception in late 2008, the OCC is "working to advance caregiver policy initiatives to government and other key decision makers in Ontario and raise awareness of common caregiver support issues."

OCC organizers had three reasons for calling the Think Tank: they wanted to receive an update on current government initiatives and to give feedback on that information; they wanted to inform sector participants about the National Caregiver Strategy; and they requested feedback and ideas in the creation of an advocacy strategy.

Caring-About-Caregivers is the Ministry of Health's research paper about caregiving in Canada, set to be completed by the end of summer 2009. It is designed to assist in long-range planning. The OCC sees this initiative as a great opportunity to undertake advocacy and advance the public policy agenda on the issue. Another encouraging sign is the increased emphasis for more focused support for caregivers by many Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs),

To establish a point of reference, the OCC has initially defined caregivers as "individuals who provide care and assistance for their family members and friends who are in need of support

because of physical, cognitive or mental health conditions." However, as the day progressed, the caregiver definition tended to expand, while at the same time it became clearer about what types of caregiving do not fit the description, i.e. parents caring for a temporarily ill child.

Caregivers are an important pillar of March of Dimes Canada's infrastructure and effectiveness. There are a large number of both informal caregivers (part of the volunteer population), who are supported by the organization in various ways, and formal caregivers or attendants who are trained to provide a wide range of professional services to stroke and polio victims as well as a variety of people with physical disabilities. Funded by the Ministry of Health, March of Dimes is one of the largest attendant service providers in Ontario. However, for the purposes of the Think Tank, informal caregivers were the focus.

Sheree Davis, director of the Health System Strategy Branch, presented the ministry's research study in conjunction with Kathryn Sirotnik, policy analyst for Long-Range Scenario Planning. A compelling statistic arose: within six years there will be more older than younger people in Canada. The seniors' population will only grow as we move into the future. Thus the need for, and recognition of, caregivers, will increase exponentially.

Some themes emerging from the study were:

- adapting to our changing families and communities;
- paying attention to changing forms of social connection and building social networks by sharing information;
- valuing caregivers and giving them a public and political voice;
- improving the scope and efficiency of informal caregiving through technology;



- providing timely access to reliable information;
- promoting opportunity and choice for support;
- competing and caring with flexible benefits and supports;
- promoting equity and enabling vulnerable populations.

In the problematic area of employment risks faced by many caregivers, there is a great need for “flexible benefits and supports.” A significant finding in the study is that “one of six (caregivers) in Ontario report constant care requirements have a major impact on the ability to earn family income.” The research study also recommends “initiating a government/business dialogue with a view to “building benefits and employment protection for informal caregivers.” This is a key component to any legislation that seeks equity for caregivers.

“ The responsibility of caregiving is a social one, with deep connections and dependencies with community, government and business. ”

Jane Jensen,
Canadian Policy Research Network

Another notable research finding was with today's medical advances there is an increase in child survival rates. It was reported that 1.6% of young children in Canada have disabling conditions, and within that group 57% have mild to moderate conditions, while 42% have very severe conditions. These numbers suggest increased need for caregivers for young children. Something else to consider.

Ms. Davis emphasized the shift that the provincial government has made in relationship to its

constituencies. It has moved from a consulting to collaborating mode. This means the government wants input from all stakeholders on issues of concern. They want conversation about what is being done right now. They want to hear what's working, what are best practices. And they want to incorporate everything they can into creating and improving policies.

Wendy Theis of the Canadian Caregiver Coalition (CCC) in Ottawa gave an overview of the work being done on the national front. The CCC believes that all levels of government must engage in the caregiver issue as well as all parts of society – both public and private. Only then will their principals of respect, choice and self-determination for caregivers be realized. Ms. Theis remarked that one fact she recently learned was on a global scale, Canada is behind in its caregiver policies and legislation. “We're not moving quickly enough,” she said. It is important to note on a federal level, as recently as April 22, 2009, the Special Senate Committee on Aging recommended a National Caregiver Strategy. The committee's final report, Canada's Aging Population: Seizing the Opportunity, provided evidence to support the need and urgency for a pan-Canadian strategy to address the needs of family caregivers.

Think tank participants formed small break-out groups and came up with a cross-section of strategies to offer the Coalition. Ways to move forward were recommended in four different areas:

- **Work with the Ministry of Health's developing strategy, *Caring About Caregivers***, by creating a policy paper that could work in conjunction with, and help direct government decisions. Create an advisory/standing committee.
- **Financial levers to consider-** Work with the



Minister of Finance to convene a taskgroup to look at caregiver supports; How can supports be enhanced? Build on existing successful practices and engage with caregivers directly to determine what they need, what works, what doesn't. Need for mechanisms to support caregivers who need to leave work. Call for more flexibility in the workplace, i.e. leave and re-entry supports. Need to find corporate sponsorship.

- **Existing success stories:** Seek out "best practices" information and share. Build upon CCC proposed database of resources and "Gold Standard" work. Develop multi-media materials and approach cable networks. Sharing of personal stories.
- **Caregivers Profiles:** Establish a National Caregiver Week. Keep working on a broad definition of caregivers for social policy purposes; Government may be able to attract businesses for strategic alignment. Engage youth in social marketing in support of caregivers. Create an advisory committee to act as liaison to different related groups, i.e. Family Council Program for those in long-term care.

The OCC invites those organizations that have caregivers as part of their population, or any individuals or organizations that have an interest in caregiving, to become either supporting members or partners. OCC current terms of reference define supporters as those who participate in some initiatives but are not involved in day-to-day operations and may choose to be publicly listed. Whereas partners donate time and/or money to the Coalition,

assume responsibility for day-to-day operations and are involved in decision-making about the Coalition. They are publicly listed.

The importance of caregivers cannot be underestimated – now, or in the future that we are all facing.

OCC Contact

Jlesmond@saintelizabeth.com

For further information:

Ontario Caregiver Coalition

www.ccc-ccan.ca/content.php?doc=48

Canadian Caregiver Coalition

www.ccc-ccan.ca

Charles Beer appointed by Liberal government to review AODA legislation

2025 is the target year for Ontario to be fully accessible for people with disabilities under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Even though this date, 16 years hence, seems far into the future, the realities attached to the final goal are seen as a tall order by many. The AODA was designed to bring the province to a level of accessibility compatible with people with disabilities of all kinds through standards applied to every person and organization that provides goods or services to the public.

Four years after this law was formally passed in the Ontario legislature, perhaps government officials close to the AODA process felt the need to "make sure we're on the right track," (Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, MCSS). To this end, Charles Beer, former Liberal MPP and cabinet



minister in the David Peterson government, has been appointed to conduct a mandatory, independent review. A report card.

The legislation has been broken down into five key areas, or standards: customer service, information and communication, transportation, employment and the built environment. Over 200 people are participating on committees whose task it is to draft the accessibility standards. Of the five areas, only the accessible customer service standard has become law with a fast-approaching compliance deadline of Jan. 1, 2012. The others are all in various stages of completion.

Beer's job is to evaluate how the accessibility standards are being developed and ensure that the accessibility project unfolds in a way that makes sense, not only for people with disabilities, but also for businesses and organizations.

As reported on the MCSS web site, "Beer will consult with people across the province and then submit a report to the government of Ontario by about January 2010. Stakeholders from the disability, business and public sector will be approached for opinion and comment. The general public is also invited to participate. The report may include recommendations to improve the legislation and a strategy to repeal the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001." For more complete information and or an opportunity to provide feedback, go to: <http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/mcass/english/news/releases/090612.htm>

Public response to the AODA has been varied. In a June 14th Toronto Sun article by Don Peat, Sun Media, he reports, "There are concerns that the implications of the broad scope of the act – impacting the supply of goods, services, access

to buildings and facilities, accommodation and even employment – are not adequately understood." And further, "As the details of all the standards emerge, municipal officials fear the worst as timelines to meet the standards and provisions hover within the next one to five years. While they stress they are more than willing to embrace the principle of accessibility, they warn about the expected costs."

Beer could have his work cut out for him.

City of Toronto's Disability Issues Committee listens and acts



The last two meetings of the Disability Issues Committee (DIC) at Toronto City Hall have been crowded with interesting and important agenda items. Bobbi Moore is March of Dimes' representative on the committee. In fact, Bobbi was instrumental in bringing a pressing issue to the forefront for the committee's consideration at its May meeting.

Frank Nyitray of People First at Ryerson University, a fellow student of Bobbi's, along with Donna Ryder, also of People First, gave a combined video and oral presentation regarding inequalities in the taxi fee structure in Toronto for people with mobility disabilities. The research study, carried out for over a year, included live video of specific instances where people using wheelchairs and scooters were charged more by various taxi companies than would be charged for people without. The study also showed that none of the taxis in question had meters and many had no driver identification or passengers' rights documents displayed in



the cabs. "People affected by this ad hoc fee structure are among those who are least able to afford it," the study pointed out. The researchers also emphasized that inequitable taxi fees charged to people with disabilities was in direct contravention of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA) and called on the City of Toronto to enforce the Municipal Code, Section 545, and to appropriately fine the offending taxi companies for each offence.

Two representatives from the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards branch (MLS), Gus Michaels, Manager of Investigation Services and Licensing Enforcement, with Richard Mucha, Manager, Licensing Services, had been invited to attend. Following questions and discussion, Mr. Michaels advised that "the public should report irregularities and complaints to MLS" as soon as possible.

The Committee decided to act. The Chair, Councillor A.A. Heaps, was asked to forward notice to the Executive Committee requesting the Director, Investigation Services for Municipal Licensing and Standards, to report to the September 21st, 2009 meeting of the City of Toronto's Licensing and Standards Committee with respect to:

- including the rights of people with disabilities in the Passenger's Bill of Rights that is displayed in taxi cabs;
- developing a simplified and more inclusive complaint process to address disability issues.

We will be following this issue closely to ensure a more equitable practice will be implemented for people with mobility disabilities.

At its June 18th meeting, at the committee's request, Fiona Crean, the new Ombudsman for the City of Toronto, addressed the group on the

purpose and mandate of her office.

Ms. Crean said they opened on April 6th and to date had received 270 complaints. She described her function as the "office of last resort," not replacing the work of the civil service. She also said the Ombudsman's office could step in when there has been a lengthy delay with a case. They have a web site and a new newsletter on line. "Our mandate is to address your concerns about the service you receive from the City of Toronto, and investigate complaints of administrative unfairness. We are independent from the city, impartial, and our services are both confidential and free of charge. We will make every effort to be accessible to you."

Accessibility for people with disabilities was of particular concern. Generally speaking, she said it was her point of view that rather than going on a purely case-by-case basis, she wants to uncover the systemic causes and address them as much as possible. To learn more about this new service provided by the City go to their [newsletter at: http://ombudstoronto.ca/news/june-2009-newsletter](http://ombudstoronto.ca/news/june-2009-newsletter)

An extensive slide presentation was given by Waterfront Toronto, the organization acting as the public advocate and steward of waterfront revitalization in Toronto. A huge undertaking. The group of experts has been contracted by city, provincial and federal governments to oversee and lead all aspects of the project. A complete overview of the Central Waterfront Master Plan was shown including the "Draft Accessibility Strategy" within the key design elements. Guiding principles are: sustainability; world-class design excellence; public consultation. An important part of the public consultation was to connect with the City's Disability Issues Committee. It was reported



that 98.5 per cent of the 9 km waterfront route is accessible to people with disabilities. Waterfront Toronto has hired an accessibility consultant, Christine Karcza, of "I Can Do This," her consulting firm that "provides strategic council to organizations wanting to eliminate barriers" to achieve goals, especially in the area of accessibility. Waterfront Toronto is an exciting, ongoing development for the City of Toronto, and one which includes accessibility from the initial planning stages to the final result.

The Committee also reviewed a city-conducted report on the recruitment process for civic committees with regard to people with disabilities.

2007 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating Highlights



Imagine Canada, the national umbrella organization representing Canada's charities and nonprofits, issued a press release in early June revealing new data on the country's largest study on giving and volunteering. Conducted by Statistics Canada every three years, the study, 2007 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (CSGVP), was developed through a unique partnership of federal government departments and voluntary organizations.

Findings from the 2007 (CSGVP) reveal the activities that are vital to the Canadian social fabric. As well, the study provides a way to understand how and why Canadians contribute to their communities, whether through donations, volunteering or helping fellow Canadians directly.

The CSGVP provides the most comprehensive assessment of giving, volunteering and participating ever undertaken in Canada and, to our knowledge, in the world. It provides information about how Canadians:

- donate money and in-kind gifts to charitable and nonprofit organizations;
- volunteer time to charitable and nonprofit organizations; and
- provide direct help to others.

This research allows reporting on the state of charitable giving, volunteering and helping in 2007. It also provides a portrait of the many ways in which Canadians express their interests, their values about community involvement and their compassion towards others.

Highlights of the survey (in 2007) Canadians:

- donated a total of \$10 billion, an increase of 12% or \$1.1 billion since 2004;
- volunteered 2.1 billion hours, a 4.2% increase



- average donation increased to \$437 from \$400;
- average number of volunteer hours remained about the same at 166 per year.

The survey reports, "The bulk of support continues to come from a narrow segment of the population: 21% of Canadians account for 82% of the total value of donations, and 12% of Canadians account for 78% of all volunteer hours."

Dr. Michael Hall, Vice-President, Research at Imagine Canada commented, "On the whole, almost all Canadians give time and money, but the fact remains, we still rely on a small number of individuals to provide the majority of support. We're encouraged that donations grew between 2004 and 2007 but we need Canadians to continue their support for charities and nonprofits during these challenging economic times."

The most frequent types of volunteer activities that Canadians reported were organizing or supervising events, fundraising, sitting on committees or boards and teaching, educating or mentoring.

Some noticeable provincial statistics regarding donor and volunteer rates: Newfoundland and Labrador have the highest donor rate @ 91% followed by Prince Edward Island @ 89%; New Brunswick @ 88% and Ontario @ 85.6%.

Regarding average donation size, Albertans made the largest average annual donation followed by donors from the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Manitoba.

For volunteer rates, while Ontario's numbers are largest (4,959,000 volunteers, due to biggest

population), its percentage rate is lagging behind many provinces at 47.3%. Saskatchewan is highest at almost 59%, followed by the Yukon (58%) and Prince Edward Island (56%).

In summary, the most frequently reported motivations for making donations were feeling compassion for those in need, wanting to help a cause in which the donor personally believes, and wanting to make a contribution to the community. Donors also give because they or someone they know has been personally affected by the cause of the organization or because of religious obligations or beliefs.

Many of the CSGVP findings are encouraging. One could say that on the whole, Canadians are generous and active in their communities. They are willing to contribute to the common good. While general rates of donating and volunteering are increasing slightly, the challenge remains: with our present economic situation, can we maintain and even increase our levels of giving? In times like this, those in need, need us even more. We all will have to dig deep.

"Professionalism and Public Service": Dr. Ken Kernaghan

In early May, a Toronto seminar, sponsored by the Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) and, in corroboration with Ryerson University, was conducted under the banner, "Investing in Knowledge 2009, Inspire and Be Inspired". The agenda included Dr. Kenneth Kernaghan, Professor Emeritus, Political Science and Management at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ont., as keynote speaker. As well, the event included the presentation of five major research topics by public administration students. Students and public administration



professionals formed the audience for Dr. Kernaghan's inspiring keynote address. He is a past President of IPAC, Editor of Canadian Public Administration and the International Review of Administrative Sciences. Indisputably an expert in his field.

Dr. Kernaghan's stories and anecdotes were entertaining and informative and gave the audience insight into the art of public administration. His vast experience opened many doors, especially for those just entering this field. A true professional seeking to share his knowledge with new generations.

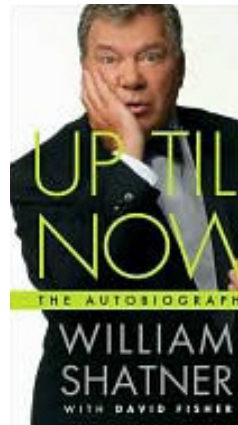
Dr. Kernaghan has written and co-authored several books, including *The Responsible Public Servant* with John Langford, and *Public Administration in Canada: A Text*, with David Siegel. He most recently contributed to *The Digital State*. His research has focused on:

- Canadian and Comparative Public Administration,
- Ethics, Electronic Government and Democracy
- Business-Government Relations
- Public Administration Theory

He has been an advisor to various governments in Canada and internationally and served as chair of the federal task force on the Disclosure of Wrongdoing. To acknowledge and celebrate his achievements a *festschrift* (a book honouring a respected academic and presented during his or her lifetime) was published by Dr. Kernaghan's colleagues and Institute of Public Administration of Canada in 2008. The book launch for *Professionalism and the Public Service: Essays in Honour of Kenneth Kernaghan*, was hosted by IPAC in November 2008 in Ottawa bringing together colleagues, students, practitioners and friends to celebrate with Kenneth and Helgi Kernaghan.

William Shatner, March of Dimes Spokesperson and his Recent Memoir,

Up Till Now: the Autobiography



His career started with high school plays where the emotion in his voice would bring the audience to tears. He attended McGill University School of Commerce where his family thought he would bring modern economic practices into his father's clothing business. Shortly after graduating from McGill, Shatner was informed of a

new company forming to perform Shakespeare in Stratford. Shatner was offered a small role in Henry V ... The play opened to excellent reviews and Shatner's career moved onward and upward from there.

All the charities he raised funds for, or assisted in any way, were those that delivered programs to kids with physical, emotional, behavioural or social problems. Kids that would find it nearly impossible to be a part of mainstream schools, summer camps or interaction within a community. Today, William Shatner can be seen supporting the March of Dimes through public service announcements helping kids with varying degrees of disabilities to experience as normal a childhood as possible. He appeals for support and help with his Shatnerian eloquence.

Judy Williams
Government Relations Associate



Prominent Politicians take part in March of Dimes' 2009 Ability & Beyond Gala Dinner at Royal York in Toronto



David Plouffe, U.S. President Obama's campaign manager, gives his inspiring keynote address entitled, "Seeding the Future," a theme easily adapted to any organization looking to succeed in today's world. Mr. Plouffe talked about building a grassroots constituency that includes young people,

implementing optimum, up-to-date technology, and sticking to a game plan through every challenge. These can result in organizational goals, including fund-raising, being realized and even exceeded.



Honourable Senator Mike Duffy acts as Emcee for the evening. Newly appointed to Ottawa's upper house in January 2009, Mr. Duffy left his post as one of Canada's best-known parliamentary journalists, hosting CTV network's Mike Duffy Live and Countdown with Mike Duffy



Dr. Kuldip S. Kular, MPP for Bramalea-Gore-Malton, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, brought greetings from the Hon. David Caplan, Minister of Health. He also highlighted some of the pressing health issues with which his ministry is currently dealing.

Produced by:

Steven Christianson, Manager,
Government Relations &
Advocacy

Janet Macmaster, Assistant
Government Relations &
Advocacy

Andria Spindel, President & CEO
Executive Lead

Contact:

jmacmaster@marchofdimes.ca

March of Dimes Canada
Government Relations &
Advocacy
10 Overlea Boulevard
Toronto ON M4H 1A4
Tel: 416-425-3463, ext. 7388

www.marchofdimes.ca

© March of Dimes Canada 2009

The Advocate is also available
online in HTML format, text format
and spoken-word format.

[Click here for Facebook version.](#)