Answering the Wake-up Call: CMA’s Public Health Action Plan

CMA submission to the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health

June 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The public health response to SARS demonstrated  the value of community action, but it also exposed the limited system infrastructure for managing infectious disease outbreaks. The public health system is not well equipped to deal with emerging infectious diseases.

Community action is not enough. CMA recommends:

1. The establishment of a national public health information network to support planning and preparation for future infectious disease threats

2. The implementation of a national public health infrastructure to support planning and response to infectious disease threats

3. The development of a national public health workforce plan to support planning and response to infectious disease threats

4. The development of a public health information strategy to support planning and response to infectious disease threats

5. The development of a public health communication strategy to support planning and response to infectious disease threats

6. The development of a public health training strategy to support planning and response to infectious disease threats

These recommendations are preventive measures that will reduce the impact of infectious disease threats. They are necessary and can be implemented by the health care system and local health units.

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