

**HEALTHY SCHOOLS WORKING TABLE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONCUSSIONS
Terms of Reference**

Background

The Ministry of Education's Healthy Schools Working Table (HSWT) is a forum of education and school-based health stakeholders who provide the Minister of Education with input and recommendations on a range of initiatives and strategies that promote healthy schools in Ontario.

The Healthy Schools Working Table Sub-Committee on Concussions (HSWTSCC) is a sub-committee of the HSWT with additional representatives from health, sport and recreation sectors. HSWTSCC members have expertise in concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management and will advise on the development of an Ontario Concussion Strategy.

The HSWT will use the advice from the sub-committee to base their recommendations on the policy and the broader strategy to the Ministries of Education; Tourism, Culture and Sport; and Health and Long-Term Care.

Context

Over the past several years, there has been new research on the causes, symptoms, consequences and management of head injuries, as well as an increase in media attention and calls for action in and outside of school to reduce harm from head injuries and in particular, calls for action to prevent, identify and manage concussions.

Mandate

Members of the HSWTSCC will be asked to provide expert advice on key policy issues, including areas related to: concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management of return to physical activity and learning for elementary and secondary students.

The sub-committee will also advise on evidence-informed resources targeted at people of all ages, inside and outside of school, including pupils, parents, school board employees, coaches/volunteers, and members of the sport community to increase awareness about the prevention, identification and management of concussions.

Chair

The sub-committee will be chaired by Marg Connor, Director, Learning Environment Branch.

Roles and Responsibility of Chair

The chair will:

- call meetings;
- develop agendas;
- chair meetings; and
- request materials as required by the sub-committee

Membership

Government

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Representatives from the following groups/organizations:

Healthy Schools Working Table (HSWT) – A select number of organizations from the HSWT:

- Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Ontario Physical Health and Education Association (Ophea)
- Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)
- Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF)

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Sector

- Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS)
- Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
- Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health
- "Hockey Education Concussion Project Concussion Sports Library" (Dr. P. Echlin)
- ThinkFirst (Dr. Charles Tator)

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Sector

- Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council of Ontario
- Coaches Association of Ontario (CAO)
- Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO)
- Sport Alliance Ontario (SAO)
- Sport4Ontario (S4O)

In addition to the above members, the Ministry of Education may invite individuals with knowledge and expertise in the field to support the HSWTSCC.

Meetings

No detailed minutes will be recorded and free and open discussion on the issues will be encouraged. A record of decisions and recommendations will be kept to bring before the Healthy Schools Working Table.

It is expected the HSWTSCC will have three meetings.

The Learning Environment Branch of the Ministry of Education will coordinate each meeting. For questions regarding the HSWTSCC on concussions, please contact Eva Silva, Senior Policy Analyst, Healthy Schools and Student Well-Being Unit by e-mailing at eva.silva@ontario.ca or by telephone at (416) 325-4753.