

# Message from the Huron County Health Unit

*In public health we are always striving to gain a better understanding of the needs of our community so that we can make evidence-informed decisions about the programs and services we provide.*

Evidence informed decision-making allows us to focus our limited resources where they will have the greatest impact in our rural setting. This Community Health Status Report is one important way the Huron County Health Unit builds the evidence to support the decisions we make. The report provides a snapshot of the health status of our community, allowing us to highlight where the health of our community is thriving and where it could use improvement. Monitoring the health status of Huron County over time will also be vital to ensure that we continue to be flexible in meeting the changing needs of our community.

The report also examines how the social determinants of health are at play in our community, which is vital to describing community needs. Given that the social determinants of health are a guiding principle of our organizational structure and are embedded into our program and service delivery, it is a natural extension to use them as a framework for this report. The report details the impact of social and economic factors on health, and helps develop an understanding of those most at risk or who may have barriers to accessing good health. It also examines how social factors influence different health outcomes for Huron County residents. They will help us and other community groups provide services that are accessible to all, especially those who need these services the most.

It is the vision of our health unit that we all work to “create healthy communities together”. As such, we hope this report will belong to the community, not only those who plan and provide community services, but also those who live, work and play in Huron County. This report is a reflection of the people who live in Huron County and brings a greater understanding of the community as a whole.

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*September 2008*

