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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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### Working together to develop a national strategy for lung health

There was keen support at the Pre-Summit, in April 2006, for a collaborative effort to move forward to the future development of effective strategies that will have a positive impact on the lung health of all Canadians. The Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals (CRHP) would like to appeal to its members and other stakeholders in the respiratory community to join the Lung Association in the process of developing a national strategy for lung health.

This is not about the Lung Association, Canadian Thoracic Society, CRHP or any other single organization – it is about the Canadian people:

- Who have or are at risk of developing lung disease;
- Whose lives will be shortened because of lung disease;
- Whose daily lives are negatively impacted by their lung disease;
- Who have family members or friends with lung disease;
- Who are at the centre of a health care system that is experiencing an increasing burden due to the ongoing rise in lung disease; and
- Whose lung disease may be preventable.

It is essential that all partners have an opportunity to participate in these discussions and final strategies. Many aspects need to be considered – some of which include:

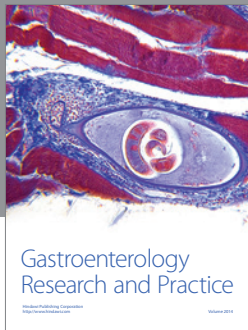
- Identifying and involving associated Canadian stakeholders directly involved in lung health;

- Identifying and involving associated Canadian stakeholders outside of the direct respiratory community (ie, industry, environment and different levels of government);
- Fostering collaborative environments among all stakeholders;
- Preventing lung disease;
- Promoting lung health;
- Maximizing the management of lung disease;
- Identifying the factors that put the Canadian people at risk for developing lung disease;
- Facilitating research on all aspects of lung health and disease treatment;
- Facilitating the dissemination of research to the frontlines of respiratory care; and
- Advocating for effective and achievable interventions in the promotion of lung health and the prevention of lung disease.

In order to have CRHP membership input, we invite your comments as we move through the process. This is an opportunity for all interdisciplinary members to work together in developing a client-centred approach to respiratory health for all Canadians.

*Cheryl Winger RN BScN CAE  
Chair CRHP*

*On behalf of the CRHP Leadership Council*



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