

LEEDS, GRENVILLE AND LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT	
BOARD OF HEALTH MANUAL	
Title/Subject: Beliefs	Principles Number: II-40
Date: March 8, 1989	Revision Date: November 29, 2007
Approved by: Board of Health	Signature: Original Signed
Reference: Strategic Plan 2006-2010	

BELIEFS

We support the definition of "health", as put forward by the World Health Organization and the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion:

"Health: a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"

"Health is a resource for everyday life.....a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources"

We are committed to the concept of population health - an approach that aims to improve the health of the entire population and reduce health inequities. In doing so, we strive to respect the key determinants of health: physical, psychological, environmental, economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects¹.

We, the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, believe:

- We are leaders and ambassadors for health in the community
- Individuals, organizations and communities share responsibility for health
- We lead by example by striving to be a healthy workplace
- Programs and services must be accessible, effective, and meet the needs of the communities we serve
- Our approach must be evidence-based, proactive, comprehensive and creative
- Meaningful communication is fundamental to fulfilling our mandate
- Our primary resource is our people
- Fostering a supportive workplace encourages people to reach their full potential
- Continuous learning is vitally important to professional and personal growth

We are committed to a philosophy of excellence through continuous quality improvement.

As evidence of this commitment, the Health Unit has adopted the National Quality Institute's Framework for Excellence and strives to model its quality principles:

- Promoting leadership through involvement
- Supporting a factual approach to decision-making
- Maintaining a primary focus on the client
- Encouraging co-operation and teamwork
- Managing processes efficiently

Honouring obligations to partners and to society