



Active Healthy Kids Canada Responds to the UN Declaration on Non-Communicable Disease

TORONTO, September 20, 2011 – The United Nations declaration on non-communicable disease (NCD) emphasizes the role of physical activity to reduce the incidence of these diseases including diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Prevention is the cornerstone of combatting NCDs and requires new thinking as to how we provide healthcare, how our communities are built, and how we raise and educate our children. Children are especially vulnerable as they do not have the power to pay for athletic programs, develop school curricula, or engineer safe places for physical activity.

“Early intervention will decrease the incidence of NCDs and will foster positive habits that will impact future generations,” says Art Quinney, Chair of Active Healthy Kids Canada. “We need to ensure that Canadian children and their counterparts around the world are given the best possible start for a healthy life, and this means societal changes from a family, community, national, and international levels.”

The 2011 Active Healthy Kids Canada report card gave an “F” for physical activity levels for children and youth. We must continue to monitor our children’s physical activity routines in order to demolish barriers and provide ample opportunity to be active and play. Active Healthy Kids Canada calls on the Public Health Agency of Canada to be aggressive in its policies and actions regarding NCDs and to work with departments at the Federal, Provincial and territorial levels to establish a bilateral funding arrangement that will allow for these changes to happen. The health and wellbeing of our country’s citizens is at stake.