



Osteoporosis Canada

Ostéoporose Canada



## Ontario Osteoporosis Strategy

Osteoporosis is a highly debilitating condition in which bones become less dense and fracture more easily. It is the single most important cause of fractures among men and women over the age of fifty, and is a highly prevalent and costly condition.

In February 2005, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced the launch of Ontario's first Osteoporosis Strategy. The goal is to reduce fractures, morbidity, mortality and costs from osteoporosis through an integrated and comprehensive approach aimed at health promotion and disease management. The strategy has five components:

- Health Promotion: Implement education and prevention programs about osteoporosis and bone health, targeting men and women over the age of 50, grade 5 school students and teachers.
- Screening: Enhance early detection and diagnosis of osteoporosis by developing quality assurance protocols, accuracy and standardization in the use of bone-density testing.
- Post-Fracture Care: Integrate services to provide enhanced treatment, including the creation of a province-wide osteoporosis screening program in fracture clinics to improve diagnosis and prevention of future fractures.
- Professional Education: Enhance use of best practice in osteoporosis care by health care professionals through the development of tools for physicians, education material for dissemination by health units etc.
- Research & Evaluation: Encourage ongoing research of osteoporosis and monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy.

Osteoporosis Canada is playing a significant role in implementing this multi-pronged Strategy along with the other stakeholders, particularly in raising awareness about osteoporosis, promoting better bone health and educating health care professionals about this disease. Partnering with other stakeholders in promoting best practices and facilitating the development of diagnostic standards and treatment guidelines, Osteoporosis Canada expects to make a significant impact on osteoporosis care in Ontario.

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