**School Health Coordinators’ Committee Discussions**

**Discussion Topic: Healthy Schools Award Program**

**Source: Jennifer Munro-Galloway (ON)** July 03 2013:

**Question:**

Question – Does your P/T have a healthy schools award program?

As many of you know, Ontario has a Healthy Schools Recognition Program (HSRP) designed to promote and celebrate healthy behaviours and practices in Ontario’s schools.

Since 2006, more than 2,350 individual schools have participated, undertaking over 13,000 healthy schools initiatives. After suspending the program this past school year for a re-design, the program is set for re-launch this September.

To accept the challenge, the school principal, school council chair and a student representative needed to identify at least one activity — in addition to any current activities — to undertake to make their schools healthier places to learn. Schools then submitted their HSRP form to their board office for approval and then the board sent us their list of schools. Schools were then recognized with a certificate signed by the Premier, the Ministers of Education and Health and Long-Term Care, and a pennant to hang in their school.

**Responses:**

1. **Alberta:**

Alberta has the Healthy School Communities Award which is a recognition program for individuals, schools/school districts and community champions that are selected from nominations/applications received by a designated date each year. All nominations/applications receive a certificate of merit for supporting healthy school communities. However, 9 or 10 awards are granted each year (3 for each category and one extra if needed because of a tie in the grades assigned by the selection committee. The award recipients are invited to a ceremony with the Ministers of Education and Health and they receive an award at the ceremony. Media is invited to the celebratory event usually held in June. For more information go to <http://www.healthyalberta.com/1281.htm>

**(2) Nova Scotia:**

Nova Scotia has no such program