

Quebec Public Health Association (QPHA)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

The QPHA is an autonomous non-profit public health association which develops links with Canadian and international communities of public health. Its primary role is to promote, improve and maintain the health and the well-being of the population of Québec. The QPHA acts as a forum for speakers in public health. The QPHA unites actors at the institutional, professional and community levels, allowing them to take positions on key public health issues and develop and maintain alliances within the public health sector.

The Quebec Public Health Association has been active in advocating stricter controls on the legal transfers of small arms in order to prevent their misuse and diversion. The QPHA has been active at the international level in the development of the OAS agreement as well as the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Commission as well as the UN 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in all its aspects.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition building*

The QPHA creates and maintains alliances with partners working in the field of the public health. These partnerships can take the form of collaborations for the organization of conferences, the formation of coalitions to promote actions in public health and the realization of communication projects to promote various issues related to public health.

Health -- *Research methods and evaluation*

The QPHA brings light to various public health issues that have yet to be explored and discussed within the media and government sectors. By doing so, it can question various policies in order to bring about concrete action and change. In 1998, SAFERNET hosted a series of workshops to identify research available and gaps related to small arms and firearms.

As part of the Biting the Bullet series, SAFERNET initiated and completed an extensive study of illicit trafficking and the role of domestic legislation. In cooperation with the Centre for Disease Control (Atlanta) and IPPNW, SAFERNET has developed workshops and training materials on small arms and Coalition Building. In cooperation with IPPNW and HELP, SAFERNET has prepared a series of reports as well as workshops on small arms.