In January of 2011, Public Health Ontario (PHO) announced a new program model for supporting applied research and program evaluation in Public Health. The PHO established Locally Driven Collaborative Project funding to support collaboration between health units, community partners and researchers to work together on a topic, intervention, or program related to an identified critical public health issue.

PHO has just announced the first round of projects in this exciting initiative and the priority for addressing seniors’ falls was acknowledged in the successful collaborative project proposal: “Engaging Community-Based Organizations in Fall Prevention for Older Adults: Moving from Research to Action”

The project will be led by Oxford County Public Health and Emergency Services and Halton Region Health Department, supported and coordinated by the School of Nursing Research Support Services at McMaster University in collaboration with nine Health Units (Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health; North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Ottawa Public Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit; Hamilton Public Health Services; Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit ; Middlesex-London Health Unit; Windsor-Essex County Health Unit; York Region Community and Health Services Department) and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.

The research project is a significant one, examining the barriers to and effective strategies for adoption, implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based fall prevention strategies within and across diverse community organizations.

Such information will assist boards of health in fulfilling the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards for the prevention of injury by identifying how public health and other stakeholders can most effectively engage diverse community partners in evidence-based fall prevention to reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of fall-related injuries in the older adult population.