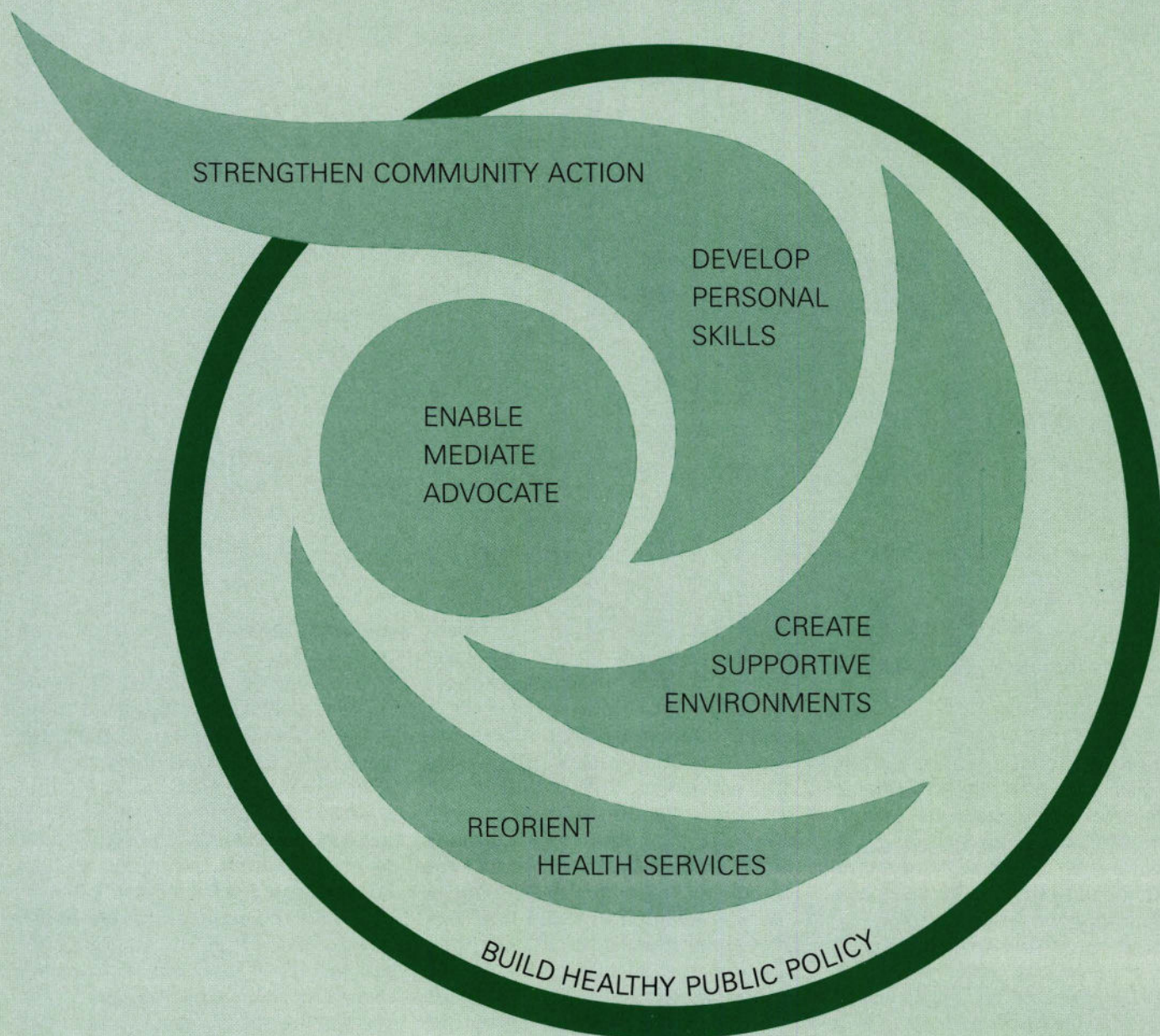


# OTTAWA CHARTER FOR

An international conference, jointly organized by WHO, Health and Welfare Canada and the Canadian Public Health Association, drew up this Charter for action to achieve Health for all by the year 2000 and beyond



A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ACTION

# R HEALTH PROMOTION



Photo WHO/Y. Pouliquen

**M**ore than 200 participants from 38 countries met in November 1986 in Ottawa to exchange experiences and share knowledge of health promotion. The conference stimulated an open dialogue among health workers, politicians, academics and representatives of governmental, voluntary and community organizations. The charter they drew up reflected their individual and collective commitment to the common goal of Health for all by the year 2000.

Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. So action for health promotion puts health firmly on the agenda of policy makers in all sectors and at all levels. Joint action by many sectors of society will ensure healthier public services, and cleaner and more enjoyable environments.

Consequently, the participants to the Ottawa Conference pledged themselves—among other things—to advocate a clear political commitment to health and equity in all sectors; to respond to “the health gap” within and between societies by tackling inequities in health; and to recognise health and its maintenance as a major social investment and challenge. ■



Photo WHO/T. Farkas

*Good health must be actively promoted in the community, in the classroom, among “high-risk groups”.*



Photo WHO/T. Farkas