

2000 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A00-9

TITLE: Protection of the Health of Children and Families within a Zero Tolerance Policy for Welfare Fraud

SPONSOR: North Bay and District Board of Health

WHEREAS the health of children is directly related to the environment in which they live; and

WHEREAS child poverty is an important measure of the health of children and living in a low-income environment exposes children to greater difficulties in their important formative years; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario recognizes healthy public policy initiatives related to children such as Healthy Babies/Healthy Children and Early Years Demonstration Projects (McCain, Mustard: Early Years Study); and

WHEREAS the Ontario Works program is an income security program of last resort; and

WHEREAS as of April 1, 2000 parent(s) convicted of fraud under the Zero Tolerance Policy are permanently ineligible for receiving social assistance in the future while assistance will continue for the children, putting them and the family unit at greater risk to the effects of poverty; and

WHEREAS a lifetime ban for social assistance fraud could have extreme consequences for individuals and families including loss accommodation, inability to properly feed the family unit and breakup of the family unit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) request the Minister of Community and Social Services that funding be given to an agency that will support or ensure appropriate support is available to children and families as a result of this policy.

Action from Conference:

Moved: Cathy Whiting (North Bay)

Seconded: Brian MacKay (Toronto)

CARRIED