

2001 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A01-13

TITLE: Tuberculosis Control Among New Immigrants to Canada

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS individuals with inactive or latent tuberculosis infection are required to undergo medical surveillance once they enter Canada; and

WHEREAS once Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) recommends a person undertake medical surveillance, the medical officer of health (MOH) of the health unit in which the individual is planning to reside should be contacted by both CIC and the affected person; and

WHEREAS delays of weeks to months typically occur between the individual arriving in Canada and receipt of a medical surveillance form by the MOH at which time the immigrant has often left the name residence and may be lost to follow-up; and

WHEREAS new immigrants, long-term visa recipients and refugees are often ill prepared to concurrently report to the health officials as required and may not have health insurance and/or do not know to whom and/or how to report;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Canada:

- ◆ To develop and implement, as soon as possible, an effective and efficient process that ensures that all “Medical Surveillance Undertakings” are brought to the attention of local medical officers of health in a timely and complete manner for expeditious action;
- ◆ To ensure that individuals placed on medical surveillance by Citizenship and Immigration Canada are given sufficient information at the time of signature about whom and how to contact the appropriate provincial/territorial health clinic and that the information be culturally sensitive;
- ◆ To ensure that individuals on medical surveillance are followed by CIC to verify that they have reported to appropriate provincial/territorial health clinics within 30 days as per the Medical Surveillance Undertaking form; and
- ◆ To ensure that sufficient health care resources are made available to allow all those on medical surveillance to be fully assessed by an experienced health care provider in tuberculosis management and, if necessary, treated in a timely manner.

Status of Resolution:

Endorsed by the alPHa membership June 12, 2001