

**2001 alpha RESOLUTION NO. A01-16**

**TITLE: Fetal Alcohol Effects/Syndrome Prevention**

**SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham**

**WHEREAS** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is the most severe form of a spectrum of abnormalities found in the children of women who have consumed alcohol while pregnant and is the leading cause of developmental delay in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** FAS and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE) can be totally eliminated through prevention and cannot be reversed or corrected; and

**WHEREAS** in its 1992 report, *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Preventable Tragedy*, the Standing Committee on Health and Welfare recommended...*the Minister of Health and Welfare should amend the Food and Drug Act and Regulations to require containers for alcohol sold in Canada, including beer, wine and spirits, should carry an appropriate warning label alerting all consumers that consumption of alcohol during pregnancy places the fetus at risk for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAE); and*

**WHEREAS** the 1992 report also stated that *warning labels properly designed and printed are an essential part of a comprehensive strategy for increased public awareness and education about the risks that maternal consumption poses for the fetus; and*

**WHEREAS** Canadian businesses exporting alcohol products to the United States have been required since 1989 to include a warning that women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risks of birth defects; and

**WHEREAS** in 1995 and 1996, the House of Commons passed private Members' Bills C-337 and C-222, that would have required warning labels on containers of alcoholic beverages; and

**WHEREAS** on April 23, 2001, the House of Commons passed Private Members' Motion M-155, that read as follows:

*That in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of requiring that no person shall sell an alcoholic beverage in Canada unless the container in which the beverage is sold carries the following visible and clearly printed label: Warning: Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects; and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government of Canada is urged to require all containers of alcoholic beverages sold in Canada to carry the following visible and clearly printed label;

Warning: Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects.

**AND FURTHER** that the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Health Canada, and the Health Critics of the Opposition Parties, ALPHA, AMO, CPHA, FCM, and OPHA are so advised.

**Status of Resolution: Endorsed by the ALPHA membership June 12, 2001**