

2001 alpha RESOLUTION NO. A01-20

TITLE: Establishing Reserves for Public Health Services

SPONSOR: The Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators

WHEREAS the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) is established to provide for the organization and delivery of public health programs and services, the prevention of the spread of disease and the protection and promotion of the health of the people of Ontario, and the Act confers governance to local boards of health; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has repeatedly affirmed the importance of local governance for public health through local boards of health; and

WHEREAS the HPPA requires local boards of health to issue annual written notices to obligated municipalities which shall specify the amount that the board of health estimates will be required to defray the expenses incurred by or on behalf of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health in the performance of its functions and duties under the HPPA or any other Act; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care has established the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines, and the legislated requirements in Parts II, III and IV of the HPPA and the associated regulations, and established a duty for every Board of Health to superintend and ensure the carrying out of these programs while the Ministry has retained direct responsibility for compliance assessment, monitoring and enforcement; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Finance announced on March 24, 1999 a commitment of the province of Ontario to fund 50% of the approved costs of public health and land ambulance services; and

WHEREAS local Boards of Health experience intermittent expenses related to facilities, maintenance, equipment, sick leave and vacation liabilities and other unbudgeted categories; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care does not allow the retention of provincial funds for the purpose of creating reserves; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care does not recognize its obligation to consistently fund extraordinary expenses when they arise; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health of Health and Long-Term Care permits the retention of reserves for other provincially funded institutions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) requests that:

1. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recognizes that the establishment of reserves for public health units is a prudent and necessary policy for the business-like operation of public health units.
2. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care make a long term commitment to fund its share of said reserves for approved purposes, based on recognized fiscal principles, as established by the local Board of Health.

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