

2001 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A01-8

TITLE: **Strengthening of the Tobacco Control Act (TCA), Section 9**

SPONSOR: Simcoe County District Health Unit

WHEREAS the Tobacco Control Act was established by the Government of Ontario in 1994, in part, to prohibit smoking in certain public establishments; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit's *2000 Monitoring Report*¹ indicates that cigarette sales to minors is still significant and that many Ontarians are still regularly exposed to second-hand smoke in the workplace and in public areas; and

WHEREAS the evidence continues to mount recognizing second-hand smoke exposure as a serious cause of a number of childhood illnesses, particularly pre-term delivery, low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections, asthma and other respiratory problems, which continues to burden the health care system; and

WHEREAS the evidence continues to mount recognizing second-hand smoke exposure as a serious cause of a number of adult illnesses, particularly heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory problems, which continues to burden the health care system; and

WHEREAS public support for smoke-free workplaces remains between 85 – 95% and support for smoke-free restaurants has exceeded 70% province-wide in some polls, as referenced in the "*Monitoring the Ontario Tobacco Strategy Progress Report*"; and

WHEREAS the results from a Fall 2000 TCA questionnaire distributed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario², which surveyed 33 Ontario Health Units, reveals that "gaps in TCA coverage of public places smoking need to be addressed by provincial legislation, i.e. revisions to the TCA"; and

WHEREAS the creation of province-wide tobacco controls for smoking in the public places would alleviate the inequities associated with inconsistent municipal bylaws as well as the hospitality industries' desire for a "level playing field" province wide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Ontario to strengthen the Ontario Tobacco Control Act;

AND FURTHER that alPHa urges the Government of Ontario to specifically strengthen Section 9 of the Tobacco Control Act to further protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke exposure by ensuring that all workplaces and all public places are smoke free;

AND FURTHER that alPHa urges the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to support this resolution.

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

¹ Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (2000) *Monitoring the Ontario Tobacco Strategy – 1999/2000*

² Colin O. D'Cunha (2001) Memo to Medical Officers of Health, Tobacco Control Act Questionnaire