

**2002 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A02 -2**

**TITLE: Adequate Funding for Public Health Programs and Services**

**SPONSOR: Board of Health for the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit**

**WHEREAS** the objects of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)* are 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

**WHEREAS** the *HPPA* requires boards of health to provide or ensure the provision of mandatory health programs and services in accordance with guidelines published by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; and

**WHEREAS** the *HPPA* requires obligated municipalities to pay for all of the expenses of their respective boards of health and medical officers of health in accordance with the written notice that boards of health are required to submit to its obligated municipality(ies); and

**WHEREAS** the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care may provide grants to boards of health for the purposes of the *HPPA*; and

**WHEREAS** many obligated municipalities have been unable to increase property taxes to pay for public health programs and services;

**WHEREAS** those health units that are most in need of public health programs and services often include those municipalities that have the least ability to pay for those services; and

**WHEREAS** recent developments including the Walkerton Inquiry; new drinking water regulations; the emergence of West Nile virus; bioterrorism threats; new and/or expanded provincial initiatives such as the influenza vaccination program, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program, the Early Years program; local public health issues such as local tobacco by-law development, and teenage pregnancy prevention, etc. have resulted in increased requirements and demands being placed on boards of health; and

**WHEREAS** the 2000 Mandatory Program Indicator Questionnaire Results found that no board of health is fully compliant with the *Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines*; and

**WHEREAS** Recommendation 2 of the Report of the Walkerton Inquiry, Part I states, in part, that the Public Health Branch or the Minister's delegate should assess whether resourcing allocations by the Province of Ontario require adjustment to ensure full compliance with the *Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines*;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Ontario to ensure that all boards of health receive adequate municipal and provincial funding such that all boards of health are able to fully comply with the *Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines*; and

**AND FURTHER** that alPHa urges the Government of Ontario to recognize and affirm that an unwillingness to adequately fund public health programs and services results in further erosion of these essential programs and services which will adversely affect the health of all Ontarians and will lead to many preventable hospitalizations and deaths occurring resulting in substantial additional costs to the health care system and the overall economy.

**Action from Conference:**

**Moved:**

**L. Noseworthy (Hastings & Prince Edward)**

**Seconded:**

**G. Hebert (Porcupine)**

**Carried**