2004 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A04-8

TITLE: **Preschool Speech, Language and Audiology Funding**

SPONSOR: Northwestern Health Unit

WHEREAS speech, language and hearing are essential to a child's healthy development, ability to communicate, learning readiness and academic success; and

WHEREAS children living in the north are frequently excluded from access to speech, language and audiology services because of unique barriers such as transportation costs and geographic challenges; and

WHEREAS First Nation communities (Reserves) without road access have the additional problems of inadequate or absent speech, language and audiology services from the federal government, combined with recent withdrawal of federal funding of clients' access to provincial services off-Reserve; and

WHEREAS unmet service needs are increasing in the Kenora-Rainy River District because of financial and jurisdictional constraints;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) request an increase in the annual funding for the preschool speech and language, audiology and infant hearing programs by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care so as to maintain the existing levels of service provided by health units, and to allow enhanced service to residents of First Nation communities.

Action from Conference: **Moved:** **I. Parkes (Northwestern)**
Seconded: **K. Robinson (Northwestern)**
Carried