

Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, M.P.  
Minister's Office - Health Canada  
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Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
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The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of State (Public Health)  
Brooke Claxton Building  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Honourable Ministers,

**RE: Resolutions from alPHa Annual Conference, 2004**

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On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health, and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), I am writing to introduce a resolution endorsed this past June by our membership for consideration, information and anticipated action by your government. A copy is included for your convenience.

**No. A04-3 National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health**

Recent public health crises, chief among them the Walkerton *E. coli* outbreak and that of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), have prompted several detailed analyses of the public health system in Canada and its provinces. These analyses revealed significant deterioration and gaps throughout, including underfunding, political interference, human resource shortages and inefficiencies in communication. The National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health has itemized these and other deficiencies in great detail (in the Naylor report, *Learning from Sars: Renewal of Public Health in Canada*). It makes critical recommendations that must be implemented as quickly and as practically as possible in order to restore Canada's essential health promotion and protection functions. Their implementation must be carried out with the co-operation of all levels of government and full and open consultation with public health service providers.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. We look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Susan Lee  
Interim Executive Director

**Copy:** Hon. Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada

**encl.**

**2004 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A04-3**

**TITLE: National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health**

**SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham**

**WHEREAS** SARS had profound impacts on Canada's health care system and economy; and

**WHEREAS** the Minister of Health Canada struck the National Advisory Committee on SARS and Public Health; and

**WHEREAS** the Committee's report "Learning from SARS: Renewal of Public Health in Canada" contains a comprehensive set of recommendations that aim to renew public health in Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology released a report containing a focus set of recommendations that aim to implement the National Advisory Committee's recommendations as quickly and practically as possible; and

**WHEREAS** the new Prime Minister of Canada has signalled his support for the renewal of public health in Canada by appointing a Minister of State for Public Health;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Canada to implement all of the National Advisory Committee's recommendations;

**AND FURTHER** that alPHa urges the Government of Canada to strike a Ministerial Advisory Committee, including representation from alPHa and its Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, to oversee and guide the implementation of these recommendations;

**AND FURTHER** that alPHa urges the Government of Canada to direct the Minister of State for Public Health to report to parliament at least annually on the progress of the implementation.

*Action from Conference:*

**Moved: R. Kyle (Durham Region)**  
**Seconded: I. Parkes (Northwestern)**

*Carried*