



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

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Healthy
Day!*

*Visez Santé
dès
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June 18, 2004

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

RE: Universal Child Dental Program

Please be advised that at its June 18, 2004 meeting, the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion #64-04, and is seeking your attention to this matter:

WHEREAS oral health is an important component of general health and impacts directly on a child's speech and language development, ability to thrive and readiness to learn; and

WHEREAS there is currently no universal access to dental care in Canada and for people and their families who are socially and economically disadvantaged, regular access to basic primary dental-health services is often unaffordable; and

WHEREAS children living in poverty are more likely to experience inadequate diets that have a detrimental effect on physical health including increased rates of dental decay;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health support the Board of Health for Hastings and Prince Edward Counties and advocate to the Premier of Ontario for the need to develop public policies to eliminate child poverty and related health effects by creating a universal child dental program.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, the resolution of which would improve health equity in our province. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

mt

c: **Ontario Boards of Health**

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