

NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH

No. 84-2004

MOTION

Moved by Russ FORTIER

Seconded by GARY CASO

WHEREAS adequate nutrition is essential for the optimal growth and development of both children and youth, and for avoiding nutrient deficiencies;

WHEREAS under-nourishment has impacts on children's behaviour, school performance and their ability to concentrate and perform complex tasks;

WHEREAS a majority of children do not eat nutritionally balanced or adequate diets;

WHEREAS the risk of developing childhood obesity, malnutrition, type 2 diabetes, iron deficiency anemia, or dental caries increases as a result of poor eating habits;

WHEREAS childhood obesity is a risk factor for adult obesity and a precursor to several chronic diseases (e.g., type 2 diabetes, heart disease) and one out of three children is considered either overweight or obese;

AND WHEREAS the current school nutrition environment is a significant public health issue that requires urgent action at both the local and provincial levels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Board of Health endorse the *Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment*, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, March 2004;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Northwestern Board of Health write to the Premier of Ontario to request the government implement the proposed Call to Action recommendations for achieving a Healthy School Nutrition Environment, including implementing mandatory Food Standards for all Ontario elementary and secondary schools;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT copies of this letter be forwarded to our local MPPs, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, all Board of Health Chairpersons, and all Medical Officers of Health.

Date June 23, 2004

Chair John Albano