

2003 aPHa RESOLUTION NO. A03-6

TITLE: **Improving Relations with Provincial Public Health Authorities**

SPONSOR: Association of Local Public Health Agencies Executive Committee

WHEREAS Ontario Boards of Health and Medical Officers of Health are responsible for the delivery of health programs and services to their communities as set out in provincial legislation; and

WHEREAS the Public Health Division (PHD) of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has a responsibility to assist boards of health to implement the programs through provision of professional, technical, and administrative consultation; and

WHEREAS aPHa, through a strong and unified voice, advocates for public health policies, programs and services on behalf of member health units in Ontario, and endeavours to assist local public health units in providing efficient and effective services that meet the needs of the people of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the goals and objectives of all of the above organizations are congruent; and

WHEREAS collaboration and communication of consistent information is essential to the success of public health programs in meeting these goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS aPHa represents boards of health, medical officers of health, health promotion professionals, supervisors of public health inspectors, and public health nursing managers, business administrators, epidemiologists, dentists and nutritionists; and

WHEREAS these local public health professionals are best equipped to identify local needs as well as barriers to implementing policy and procedure; and

WHEREAS these local authorities choose aPHa as the Association through which to voice their collective concerns and advice, is consulted as the collective voice of its members by other organizations, and is the organization best equipped to be the conduit of information among its members, between the province and its members and between other organizations and its members; and

WHEREAS Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health is equipped with the specific knowledge and expertise required to speak to Ontario residents and government alike on matters of public health importance, and has been appointed to the position of Commissioner of Public Health and Assistant Deputy Minister; and

WHEREAS aPHa is uniquely equipped to serve as an effective conduit for collaboration and communication among all of the above-named service providers and policy makers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Public Health Division and the Commissioner of Public Health be urged to improve their communication to and collaboration with Ontario's public health professionals by including aPHa in discussions of provincial public health policy and practice;

AND FURTHER THAT the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be urged to meet with alPHa to discuss a process to improve information exchange among alPHa members, the Ministry, the Commissioner of Public Health and the Public Health Division;

AND FURTHER THAT the member organizations of alPHa be so advised.

Action from Conference:

Moved: M. Harding (Thunder Bay)
Seconded: C. Whiting (North Bay)

Carried