

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

26/01/05

Honourable Minister,

Re. alPHa Resolutions for Your Consideration

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 today to follow up on two of our active resolutions (attached for your convenience).

A04 – 8 Preschool Speech, Language and Audiology Funding

As you are well aware, Canada's aboriginal communities face many health – related challenges over and above those of other communities, many of which are exacerbated by the difficulties in defining political structures within which to provide services. The particular issue of speech, language and audiology programs for childhood development serves as one example among many, and though its operative clause is directed at the Ontario government, alPHa would like clarification of the Public Health Agency of Canada's anticipated role in addressing this and other public health issues in First Nations communities.

A03 – 5 Monitoring of Human Exposure to Chemicals

alPHa was very pleased by the announcement of the Canadian Health Examination Survey pilot project, which will select five to ten thousand respondents as a representative sample of Canadians for direct measures of a roster of health indicators. This satisfies the operative clause of the above resolution, but we want to emphasize the importance of the continuation and expansion of this program to strengthen the chronic disease – focused surveillance functions of public health in Canada. We would appreciate knowing how the Public Health Agency of Canada plans to be involved in this initiative in order to satisfy its mandate of prevention and management of chronic diseases.

We are aware that the structure of public health is undergoing significant change in Canada at all levels, from the federal agencies to the local ones, the desired result of which is to ensure a strengthening of the system and protection and improvement of the health of all people within Canada's borders. The above issues are but two that alPHa's members want to see included in the landscape of initiatives that will help to achieve that goal. We look forward to your response, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Linda Stewart,
Executive Director

Copy: Hon. Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health

Encl.

As the provincial organization representing public health, alPHa provides leadership and expertise on public health management issues. It speaks and advocates on behalf of boards of health and public health units to government and other health-related organizations. Members include medical officers of health, board of health members and senior managers in public health disciplines including inspection, epidemiology, nursing, dentistry, nutrition, health promotion and business administration