

2005 aPHa Resolution A05-10

TITLE **SARS Commission**

SPONSOR: Durham Region Health Department

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario struck the SARS Commission on June 10, 2003, under section 78 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), to investigate the introduction and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the SARS Commission has released two interim reports; and

WHEREAS the first interim report, SARS and Public Health in Ontario, recommended 21 principles for public health reform that informed Operation Health Protection, the Ontario government's three-year action plan to revitalize public health in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the second interim report, SARS and Public Health Legislation, makes 113 recommendations to strengthen the HPPA and to enact emergency powers for public health disasters like SARS or influenza pandemics; and

WHEREAS the SARS Commission also recommended that more extensive consultation between the government and health community is required on issues such as the role of public health in infection control and surveillance in health facilities, the proposals for emergency powers such as compulsory immunization, the enhancement of infection control standards and communication between public health and health facilities; and

WHEREAS the government has not established such a consultation process to review and advance those recommendations that are outside the scope of Operation Health Protection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT aPHa urges the Government of Ontario to act immediately to establish a consultation process to review and advance the recommendations of the second interim report of the SARS Commission that are not being addressed by Operation Health Protection; and

AND FURTHER THAT the Premier of Ontario, Attorney General of Ontario, Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Chief Medical Officer of Health and SARS Commission are so advised.