

1/17/2006

**TO: Chairs, Ontario Boards of Health
Ontario Medical Officers of Health**

Re. A05-17, Board of Health Budgets for 2006

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), we are writing today to inform you of the above-named Resolution, passed by your colleagues at the November 2005 Annual General Meeting.

Originally sponsored by the alPHa Board of Directors, this resolution calls on all local boards of health to approve 2006 health unit budgets that ensure significant and sufficient growth in public health capacity across the province. It simultaneously calls on the Government of Ontario to keep its promise to pay 75% of these budgets as received, as well as to make additional resources available to respond to existing and impending recommendations for enhancements, including those of the Capacity Review Committee, Agency Implementation Task Force and SARS Commission (Justice Campbell) final reports.

alPHa is aware that total budget increases will be required in almost all health units in order to fulfill their minimum mandate under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. alPHa also recognizes that this will in turn have a notable impact on the amount of the provincial share. The Province must nevertheless meet its obligation for that share, as it is the key to its stated commitment to rebuild Ontario's public health capacity.

Ontarians are now depending on all of alPHa's member boards of health and the Government of Ontario to work together to ensure that effective public health programs and services are equally provided throughout the province.

Yours truly,



Dr. Liana Nolan,
President

Copy: Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Encl.

2005 alPHa Resolution A05-17

TITLE **Board of Health Budgets for 2006**

SPONSOR: alPHa Board of Directors

WHEREAS The Naylor, Walker and Campbell reviews of the public health system in Ontario are consistent in their conclusions that it is chronically underfunded and in need of serious and immediate revitalization; and

WHEREAS The Ontario Government has responded by launching *Operation Health Protection: an Action Plan to Prevent Threats to our Health and to Promote a Healthy Ontario*, which includes a pledge to “strengthen the resource base for public health by increasing the provincial share of funding for local Public Health Units from 50% to 75%”; and

WHEREAS Shifting the greater share of public health funding to the province will not in and of itself provide the required resource enhancements to ensure local delivery of all mandatory public health services; and

WHEREAS Every Ontario Board of Health is bound by the Health Protection and Promotion Act to

- a) *superintend, provide or ensure the provision of health programs and services required by this Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board; and*
- b) *shall perform such other functions as are required by or under this or any other Act. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s.4; and*

WHEREAS The obligated municipalities in a health unit are bound by the Health Protection and Promotion Act to pay the expenses incurred by its board of health and medical officer of health in the performance of these functions and duties, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 72; and

WHEREAS A 2005 alPHa survey indicated that 82% of health units do not believe that their total 2005 budget is sufficient to fulfill their minimum mandate under the terms of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That alPHa urge that its member Medical Officers of Health and Boards of Health to recommend and approve 2006 health unit budgets that ensure significant and sufficient growth in public health capacity across the province

AND FURTHER That alPHa urge the Province of Ontario keep its promise to fully cost share the enhanced 2006 budgets as approved by local boards

AND FURTHER That the Province of Ontario ensure that significant and sufficient resources are made available in the 2006 and 2007 budgets to respond to the recommendations that will be made in the Capacity Review Committee, Agency Implementation Task Force and SARS Commission (Justice Campbell) final reports in order to encourage growth in capacity of the Ontario public health system.

AND FURTHER That alPHa urge the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s Public Health Division to increase its oversight of local performance measurement to ensure that all legally required public health services are equally accessible to all Ontario citizens.