

10/30/2006

Dr. Terrence Sullivan, PhD, President & CEO
Cancer Care Ontario
620 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2L7

Dear Dr. Sullivan

Re. alPHa Resolutions on Cancer Prevention

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 thank you for Cancer Care Ontario's *Targeting Cancer: An Action Plan for Cancer Prevention and Detection (Cancer 2020)*.

As you are aware, Ontario's Public Health Units have a mandate to ensure the delivery of certain programs and services aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity from chronic diseases, including oral, skin, cervical and breast cancers.

In addition to the delivery of these services, our members are also active in advocating for further strategies that are designed to reduce cancer risk, such as screening programs, improving awareness and surveillance. alPHa currently has four active resolutions on cancer prevention (enclosed). Two of these support specific recommendations in *Cancer 2020*, namely those calling for stronger regulation of artificial tanning equipment and a province-wide colorectal cancer screening program. Each of these is also available on our "cancer prevention" Web page, which I invite you to explore at http://www.alphaweb.org/cancer_prevention.asp

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss working together to achieve the goals and objectives of *Cancer 2020*.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Linda Stewart,
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Encl.

alPHa Resolution A06-3

TITLE: Health-Based Regulation of the Management and Use of Artificial Tanning Equipment

SPONSOR: alPHa Board of Directors.

WHEREAS The World Health Organization's 2003 report, *Artificial Tanning Sunbeds: Risks and Guidance* concludes that Ultraviolet (UV) light from artificial tanning equipment is a probable human carcinogen linked to eye damage and increased risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers; and

WHEREAS at present, the only regulation of tanning salons in Ontario is through the Federal government's Radiation Emitting Devices Act, which is limited in scope to the manufacturing, importing and sale/resale of artificial tanning equipment; and

WHEREAS tanning salon operators are known to make marketing claims that include the suggestion that artificial tanning is a "safe" method by which to tan and meet Vitamin D requirements; and

WHEREAS skin cancer is the most common type of cancer of Ontario; and

WHEREAS no legislation in Ontario currently exists that regulates the use of such equipment based on known health risks

THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED THAT the Government of Ontario pass and promote legislation governing the use of artificial tanning equipment based on the above-named WHO Report's *Recommendations for the Management of Sunbed Operations*, that includes

- regulation of the safety claims permitted by tanning salon owners and operators
- training requirements for operators of artificial tanning equipment
- a ban on the use of artificial tanning for those under 18, subject to the advice of a regulated health professional
- the formulation of enforceable safe operating standards for the tanning industry, including, maximum exposure times and warnings to consumers related to the use of UV-emitting tanning equipment

MOTION: V. Sterling (BOH, Toronto)

SECOND: R. Manuel (BOH, Middlesex-London)

MOTION FOR AMENDMENT: C. Whiting (MOH, North Bay Parry Sound)

SECOND: L. O'Connor (BOH, Durham)

Resolution CARRIED as amended.

2003 aIPHa RESOLUTION NO. A03-3

TITLE: Helicobacter Pylori and Gastric Cancer Prevention

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS stomach cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide; and

WHEREAS the outcome of treatment for stomach cancer is poor; and

WHEREAS H. pylori is associated with some stomach cancers; and

WHEREAS the International Agency for Research on Cancer has designated H. pylori as a Class 1 human carcinogen; and

WHEREAS H. pylori infects a substantial proportion of Canadians; and

WHEREAS H. pylori is commonly acquired in childhood, usually by ten years of age, and will persist life-long unless treated; and

WHEREAS H. pylori can be detected by non-invasive tests (i.e., serology and urea breath test); and

WHEREAS H. pylori can be effectively eradicated by medical treatment (i.e., triple therapy – two antimicrobial agents with a proton-pump inhibitor);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and Ontario Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation are urged to fund a demonstration project to evaluate the merits of a high-risk H. pylori screening and treatment;

AND FURTHER THAT the federal Minister of Health, President, CIHR and Ontario's Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation are so advised.

2002 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A02 - 4

TITLE: Mandatory Cervical Screening Test Reporting

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS cervical cancer is a leading cause of death in women; and

WHEREAS there is emerging medical evidence that links the presence of human papilloma virus with the progression of mild cervical abnormalities to invasive cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS cervical cancer deaths are preventable through regular Pap smear and confirmatory testing; and

WHEREAS effective cervical cancer control is best accomplished through an organized province-wide cervical screening program; and

WHEREAS Cancer Care Ontario has developed and administers the Ontario Cervical Screening Program (OCSP); and

WHEREAS the OSCP has financed the development of CytoBase, a software program designed to support the establishment of cervical cancer registry; and

WHEREAS an effective cervical cancer registry requires the accurate and complete reporting of all Pap smear, colposcopy and biopsy test results; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba has recently completed the implementation of a cervical cancer registry using CytoBase; and

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba has also amended the *Diseases and Dead Bodies Regulation* under the *Public Health Act* such that laboratory operators and colposcopists are required to file reports on cervical cancer screening to the medical director of the Manitoba Cervical Cancer Screening Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Ontario to amend the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the regulations thereunder such that laboratory operators and colposcopists are required to file reports on cervical cancer screening to the appropriate person employed by Cancer Care Ontario;

AND FURTHER that alPHa urges the Government of Ontario to work with alPHa and other key stakeholders to investigate and advance the mandatory reporting, under the authority of *the Health Protection and Promotion Act*, of other non-communicable diseases.

2001 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A01-11

TITLE: Colorectal Cancer Screening

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is the leading cause of mortality in Ontario, ranking second as a cause of cancer deaths in 1998; and

WHEREAS there are protocols in place that reduce the number of false positives; and

WHEREAS Cancer Care Ontario's Expert Panel on Colorectal Cancer Screening recommended in its March 1999 report that an organized colorectal cancer screening program be established in Ontario; and

WHEREAS both Cancer Care Ontario and alPHa have endorsed the Expert Panel's recommendations; and

WHEREAS on January 11, 2001, Cancer Care Ontario submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care a proposal to establish a colorectal screening pilot project which incorporates all of the changes to earlier versions that were required by the Ministry;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) urges the Government of Ontario to approve and fund Cancer Care Ontario's Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Project so that the project can be implemented and evaluated as soon as possible and by so doing, lay the groundwork for the establishment of a future organized Ontario colorectal cancer screening program.