

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg
Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

4/12/2007

Honourable Premier,

Re. Toronto MOH Report - Impact of Poverty on Children's Current and Future Health

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 share the Association's endorsement of the Toronto Board of Health's September 14, 2006 resolutions on child poverty in Ontario, contained in the above-named report.

The report calls on the Ontario Government to commit to a Poverty Reduction Strategy with targets and timetables that will substantially benefit the health and well-being of Ontario's children and families, including

- Increasing the minimum wage to a level reflective of Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Off (LICO)
- Increasing social assistance and Ontario Disability Support Payment rates to reflect the real costs of living, with benefits indexed to inflation
- Significant provincial allocations for child care
- Elimination of the National Child Benefit Supplement clawback

Though the association between poverty and poor health continues to be clearly demonstrated throughout society, its impact on children is of particular concern, as negative health and developmental outcomes in childhood echo throughout life. alPHa is endorsing this report as part of its ongoing advocacy efforts to address the social and economic determinants of health.

Yours truly,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Linda Stewart,
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. George Pasut, Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting)
Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services
Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services