

ALPHA RESOLUTION A08-3

TITLE: Advocacy for an Enhanced Provincial Public Education and Promotion Campaign on the Negative Health Impacts of Alcohol Misuse

SPONSOR: Middlesex-London Board of Health

WHEREAS The Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines under the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act state that Boards of health shall engage in knowledge exchange activities with public health practitioners, policy-makers, community partners, health care providers, and the public regarding factors that determine the health of the population and support effective public health practice gained through population health assessment, surveillance, research, and program evaluation; and

WHEREAS Public health units/departments have a direct mandate in several key areas related to the use of alcohol and other drugs, specifically: chronic disease prevention, injury prevention, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention, substance misuse prevention and harm reduction; and

WHEREAS Globally, alcohol is estimated to contribute to 7% of all Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYS) for cancers; 38% of neuro-psychiatric conditions; 7% of cardiovascular diseases, 8% of other non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and liver cirrhosis), 28% of unintentional injuries (drunk driving crashes, falls, fires, etc.); and 12% of intentional injuries (e.g. suicide, homicide, sexual assault, other violence). (DALYS is a method for measuring the disability, disease or death impact on a population from a risk factor.); and

WHEREAS In 1992, alcohol cost the Canadian economy approximately \$7.5 billion (\$2.8 billion in Ontario), and illicit drugs an additional \$1.4 billion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the Ontario government to create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse as one component of a comprehensive strategy.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Moved: V. Sterling (Toronto)
Seconded: M. Johnson (Eastern Ontario)

Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED