

**alPHa RESOLUTION A09-5**

**TITLE:** World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health (WHO-CSDH): Call to Action for Ontario Public Health

**SPONSOR:** Sudbury & District Board of Health

**WHEREAS** alPHa has an established position and track record on action and advocacy on reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health including the establishment of the alPHa-OPHA Joint Work Group on the Social Determinants of Health; and

**WHEREAS** There is increasing *global-to-local* understanding and concern about persisting and widening health inequities, defined as unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries and mostly attributable to social determinants; and

**WHEREAS** The CSDH was established by the WHO in 2005 to respond to this increasing concern and to provide advice on how to reduce health inequities; and

**WHEREAS** Canada played a key role in supporting the work of the CSDH including the participation of Commissioner Monique Bégin, the engagement of the Public Health Agency of Canada and leadership in two of the CSDH's Knowledge Networks; and

**WHEREAS** The CSDH launched its final report, *Closing the Gap in a Generation*, in August 2008 which contained three overarching recommendations to close the health gap:

1. Improve daily living conditions
2. Tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources
3. Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action including related implications for local government (including the health sector) and civil society; and

**WHEREAS** The *Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion's* (MHP) Strategic Plan recognizes the importance of social and economic factors in determining health; the legislative purpose and objects of the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion* (OAHP) include the reduction of health inequities; and the *Ontario Public Health Standards* (OPHS) require all boards of health to assess, plan, deliver, manage, and evaluate programs to reduce inequities in health while at the same time maximizing the health gain for the whole population;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that alPHa congratulates the CSDH for its work and endorses the content and recommendations of the WHO – CSDH final report;

**AND FURTHER** that ALPHa calls on the MHP and the OAHPP to immediately begin work to determine their respective leadership roles in implementing the WHO – CSDH recommendations and in supporting boards of health to do the same;

**AND FURTHER** that ALPHa works in partnership with boards of health to identify opportunities for individual and collective board action to reduce health inequities through the implementation of the Ontario Public Health Standards;

**AND FINALLY** that ALPHa widely communicates its support for the WHO – CSDH and this resolution to the Ontario and Canadian public health community, including the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health, and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs for Ontario and the Minister for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

**ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:**

Moved: P. Sutcliffe (Sudbury)

Seconded: R. Pellizzari (Peterborough)

**Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED**