

Hon. David Caplan  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
10th Flr, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor St  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

8/4/2009

Honourable Minister,

**Re. alPHa Resolution A06-3 - Health-Based Regulation of the Management and Use of Artificial Tanning Equipment**

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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 remind you of alPHa's 2006 Resolution on Tanning Bed Safety (A06-3, attached).

As you know, our members are responsible for providing public health programs and services in areas specified in the Ontario Public Health Standards. The Chronic Disease Prevention program standards specifically mention exposure to ultraviolet radiation as an important area of concentration for health promotion and protection activities, alongside tobacco, alcohol, physical activity and healthy eating.

We believe that activities related to the management of risk from ultraviolet radiation should be reinforced by evidence-based regulation of the use and management of artificial tanning equipment, especially considering that their use is often marketed using unsupported claims of health benefits in the absence of any requirement to mention the known risks of exposure to ultraviolet light.

Epidemiological studies have now provided sufficient evidence to compel the International Agency for Cancer Research to add UV-emitting tanning devices to its Group 1 list of definite human carcinogens, alongside such other cancer risks as asbestos, arsenic, tobacco and the human papillomavirus. It is therefore clear that the call for regulation must be answered now.

We are once more strongly urging the Government of Ontario to pass and promote legislation governing the management and use of artificial tanning equipment based on recommendations contained in the World Health Organization's 2003 publication, *Artificial Tanning Sunbeds: Risks and Guidance*, which is intended to assist governments in developing regulatory policies. It is available at <http://www.who.int/uv/publications/en/sunbeds.pdf>

We look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,  
*ORIGINAL SIGNED*  
Linda Stewart,  
Executive Director

**Copy:** Dr. Arlene King, 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.*