



June 9, 2010

The Honourable Lauren Broten  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Minister's Office  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
56 Wellesley St. W.  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2S3

Dear Minister:

***Subject: Increased Funding for Preschool Speech and Language and Healthy Babies Healthy Children Programs***

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At the Board of Health Meeting of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit held on May 20, 2010 the following motion was passed:

That: The Board of Health send a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services requesting that the Ministry give consideration to the need for increased funding to Preschool Speech and Language and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Programs in order to protect the health and welfare of the children in our community.

Motion Carried.

Budgets for both of these programs have been frozen since 2008, after having only received a 1% increase in 2008. This situation has caused reductions in service to this vulnerable early years' population. Fewer children and families receiving services make it impossible to meet the Ontario Public Health Standards for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program.

As you are aware, if a child has poor speech skills, learning at school is undermined and the child is at risk for poor social integration. Freezing the budget undermines all of the other efforts that the Government of Ontario is making for the health of children and their success in the school system. Early childhood development is a critical time in one's life, as it affects learning, behaviour and health throughout life.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MAIN OFFICE:</b><br>458 Laurier Blvd.<br>Brockville, ON<br>K6V 7A3<br>(613) 345-5685<br>FAX: (613) 345-2879 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SMITHS FALLS OFFICE</b><br>94 Beckwith St. N.<br>Smiths Falls, ON<br>K7A 2C1<br>(613) 283-2740<br>FAX: (613) 283-1679 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>KEMPTVILLE OFFICE</b><br>8 Asa St., Unit 2<br>Kemptville, ON<br>K0G 1J0<br>(613) 258-5941<br>FAX: (613) 258-1407 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>GANANOQUE OFFICE</b><br>375 William St. S., Suite 200<br>Gananoque, ON<br>K7G 1T2<br>(613) 382-4231<br>FAX: (613) 382-7599 |
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We ask that the Minister consider increased funding for these programs and we look forward to hearing from you on this important health issue.

Sincerely,

THE CORPORATION OF THE LEEDS, GRENVILLE  
AND LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Original Signed

(Mr.) Jack Butt  
Chair of the Board

c: Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Steve Clark, MPP for Leeds and Grenville  
Randy Hiller, MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington  
Norm Sterling, MPP for Carleton Mississippi Mills  
Ontario Boards of Health