



January 21, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier  
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

The Poverty Reduction Strategy c/o The Honourable Dalton McGuinty

The Honourable Deborah Matthews  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley St W., Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

The Honourable David Caplan  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
2062 Sheppard Ave E., Toronto, ON M2J 5B3

The Honourable Margaret Best  
Minister of Health Promotion  
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor, Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Honorable Ministers and Premier McGuinty:

Re: Poverty Reduction Strategy and Access to Oral Health Services for Low Income Ontarians

We congratulate the government for expanding the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program to cover vulnerable teens up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The three year, \$28.3 million funding commitment will help many low-income families access urgently needed dental care for their teenaged children. However, this represents only a portion of the \$135 million promised by the Premier of Ontario to address the oral health disparities for low-income Ontarians. Many people in Ontario continue to suffer with dental pain because they cannot afford necessary dental treatment and this situation can only worsen in this economic environment. The rest of the funding should be committed now to help alleviate urgent dental needs of at-risk Ontarians.

The Board of Health of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit urges the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Poverty Reduction Committee, the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to immediately implement the dental program for low-income Ontarians as promised in the 2008 provincial budget.

I look forward to your earliest response.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by**

Dennis Roughley, Chair  
Board of Health

DR:BJ:pgc

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Barrie:</b> 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 (705) 721-7520 FAX (705) 721-1495	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Collingwood:</b> 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 (705) 445-0804 FAX (705) 445-6498	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cookstown:</b> 2-25 King Street S. Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 (705) 458-1103 FAX (705) 458-0105	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gravenhurst:</b> 5 Pineridge Gate Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 (705) 684-9090 FAX (705) 684-9887	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Huntsville:</b> 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 (705) 789-8813 FAX (705) 789-7245	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Midland:</b> 1156 St. Andrew's Dr. Box 626, Midland, ON L4R 4L3 (705) 526-9324 FAX: (705) 526-1513	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Orillia:</b> 12-575 West St., S. Orillia, ON L3V 7N6 (705) 325-9565 FAX (705) 325-2091
---	--	---	--	--	---	---

c.c Mr. Garfield Dunlop MPP (Simcoe North)  
Mr. Jim Wilson, MPP (Simcoe Grey)  
Mr. Norm Miller, MPP (Parry-Sound Muskoka)  
Ms. Aileen Carroll MPP (Barrie)  
Ms. Julia Munroe MPP (Simcoe York)  
Linda Stewart, aPHa  
Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Ms. Pegeen Walsh, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch