



**Thunder Bay District
Health Unit**

MAIN OFFICE

999 Balmoral Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6E7
Tel: (807) 625-5900
Toll Free in 807 area code
1-888-294-6630
Fax: (807) 623-2369

GERALDTON

P.O. Box 1360
510 Hogarth Avenue
Geraldton, Ontario
P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0454
Speech: (807) 854-0905
Fax: (807) 854-1871

MANITOUWADGE

P.O. Box 385
Manitou Road
Manitouwadge, Ontario
P0T 2C0
Tel: (807) 826-4061
Fax: (807) 826-4993

MARATHON

P.O. Box 384
Library Building
Peninsula Road
Marathon, Ontario
P0T 2E0
Tel: (807) 229-1820
Fax: (807) 229-3356

NIPIGON

P.O. Box 15
Nipigon District Memorial
Hospital
125 Hogan Road
Nipigon, Ontario
P0T 2J0
Tel: (807) 887-3031
or (807) 887-2908
Fax: (807) 887-3489

SCHREIBER

P.O. Box 698
Jack Stokes Medical
Building
501 Scotia Street
Schreiber, Ontario
P0T 2S0
Tel: (807) 824-2413
Fax: (807) 824-2349

February 28, 2006

The Hon. Mary Ann Chambers
Minister of Children & Youth Services
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street W
TORONTO ON M5S 2S3

The Hon. George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th floor
80 Grosvenor Street
TORONTO ON M7A 2C4

The Hon. Jim Watson
Minister of Health Promotion
35th floor, 250 Yonge Street
TORONTO ON M5B 2N5

**re: Best Start Initiative
TBDHU Resolution 06-12**

At its Regular Meeting of February 21, 2006, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health passed Resolution 06-12, joining its counterparts in Sudbury and Durham Region in endorsing the Best Start Initiative, and in advocating for funding commitments from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion to match any increased program funding needs resulting from the Best Start Initiative.

The Thunder Bay District Board of Health respectfully requests support of, and action on this resolution.

"WHEREAS, in Spring 2005 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) announced the Best Start Initiative, a program funded by the provincial government through the federal funds announced under the proposed National Plan for Early Learning and Child Care; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit and Durham Region Health Department passed resolutions endorsing the Best Start Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health provides public health programs and services including Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC), Preschool Speech and Language (PSL), and the Infant Hearing Program (IHP); and the implications and expectations for public health programs and services within the Comprehensive Best Start Hub Model will not be known until further consultation during 2006;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health advocate to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Ministry of Health Promotion to recognize and fully fund any increases to public health programs and services, including HBHC, PSL and IHP, that are a direct result of the Best Start Initiative; and

FURTHER, THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), District School Boards, and member municipalities for their support."

Sincerely,



Connie Bryson, Chair
Thunder Bay District Board of Health

copy: The Hon. D. McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Dr. S. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and ADM
Mr. M. Gravelle, MPP, Thunder Bay – Superior North
Mr. B. Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay – Atikokan
Ontario Boards of Health
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)
Lakehead District School Board
Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
Superior-Greenstone District School Board
Superior North Catholic District School Board
Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boreales
Member Municipalities