

HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD COUNTIES BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION

SMOKE FREE CARS LEGISLATION

MOTION:

WHEREAS there is international scientific consensus that second-hand smoke can result in sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), childhood cancer, leukemia, brain cancer, asthma, other respiratory diseases, and death;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Canadian Tobacco use Monitoring Survey for 2006, 25 percent of Canadians report being exposed to cigarette smoke in the car;

AND WHEREAS exposure to second-hand smoke within a vehicle exposes children to significant hazard to their health;

AND WHEREAS smoke-free cars legislation needs to be implemented at the provincial level and enforced by police officers who are responsible for carrying out provisions of the *Highway Traffic Act*,

AND WHEREAS provincial laws already require child safety seats and making cars smoke free is the logical next step in the protection of children's health;

AND WHEREAS an amendment to the Smoke Free Ontario Act has been tabled in the legislature which would add a section that:

- 1) Restricts anyone smoking or carrying lighted tobacco in a private motor vehicle while a person who is less than 16 years old is present in the vehicle;
- 2) Is enforced by police officers or officers appointed for carrying out the provisions of the *Highway Traffic Act*,
- 3) Imposes fines up to \$200 for the first offence and up to \$1000 for a second or subsequent conviction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit calls upon the provincial government to pass Bill 11 amending the Smoke Free Ontario Act 2005 to provide protection to Children under 16 years of age from second hand smoke in personal vehicles; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health communicates its support for the passage of Bill 11 to local MPPs, MPP David Oraziotti, Premier McGuinty, Minister of Health Promotion, Minister of Transportation, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and to the boards of health throughout Ontario.

CARRIED