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November 17, 2011

Honourable Deb Matthews
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block
10th Floor - 80 Grosvenor St
Toronto ON M7A2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

**Re: Integration of Provincial Responsibilities for the Ontario
Public Health Services**

Congratulations on your reappointment as the Minister of Health and Long Term Care. This announcement recently by the Premier also noted the absence of a Minister of Health Promotion and Sport, thus denoting a smaller cabinet. Further announcements as to the reallocation of the staff, budget and responsibilities of the previous Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport have not yet been forthcoming as of the date of this letter.

The Thunder Bay District Board of Health is most concerned that the current change by the Premier permits an opportunity to realign the resources that are dedicated to the four program areas of the Ontario Public Health Services; namely Injury Prevention, Child Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Reproductive Health, under the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. These programs and services or their predecessors were previously in the Public Health Branch Division of the Ministry of Health and Long Term care prior to 2005 and the genesis of the Ministry of Health Promotion (subsequently with Sport). At that time, they were under the Health Protection and Promotion Act as part of the Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines.

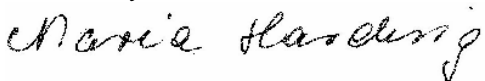
While the formulation of the Ministry of Health Promotion brought about a government wide focus on the promotion of health and subsequently sport, the implementation and coordination in an effective and efficient manner, particularly at the local public health unit level continued to be a challenge. As noted in the attached resolution, the Board of Health members felt strongly that this is an opportune moment for you and the newly re-elected government to seek a more functional, efficient and cost conscientious realignment of such programs and services along with the staff and resources back under the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

The combining of all the components of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and Ontario Public Health Services under one Ministry and Division permits a more synergistic program implementation at the local health unit. This also reestablishes the proper incorporation of the so called "three legged stool" of public health that being the functional integration of Health Prevention, Health Protection and Health Promotion. All of these being equally valued and necessary to deliver quality public health programs and services to the citizens of Ontario.

The inclusion of Healthy Babies Health Children under Reproductive and Child Health of the Ontario Public Health Services HPPA, along with their mandate under the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Public Health Division would further integrate programs and services and simplify reporting, accountability and funding under one Ministry.

Thank you for your consideration of this resolution. The Board continues to look forward to working with you as you continue as our Minister of Health and Long Term Care.

Yours truly,



Maria Harding, Chair
Thunder Bay District Board of Health

- cc. Dr. A. King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
S. Rafi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
M. Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources and Mines, MPP – Thunder Bay
Superior North
B. Mauro, MPP – Thunder Bay Atikokan
L. Stewart, Executive Director – ALPHA
D. Heath, CEO – Thunder Bay District Health
Chairs of Boards of Health of Ontario



Thunder Bay District
Health Unit

Board of Health Resolution

MOVED BY: Mr. T. Fox

SECONDED BY: Ms. C. Gillies

SOURCE: TBDHU Board of Health

DATE: November 15, 2011

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RESOLUTION NO.: 159-2011

CARRIED

AMENDED

LOST

DEFERRED/
REFERRED

ITEM NO.: 8.1

M. Harding

CHAIR

**RE: Report No. 101-2011 (Medical Officer of Health)
Medical Officer of Health Report**

WHEREAS prior to 2005 all the programs and services denoted in the Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines were under one branch/division of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care;

AND WHEREAS since the revision of the standard programs and services delivered by local Health Units in Ontario as the Ontario Public Health Standards includes a number of components under the previous Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MHPS), the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care(MOHLTC) there have been challenges in the coordination of all the programs at the local level so as to meet the funding, service delivery targets and evaluation of three different Ministries;

AND WHEREAS the newly elected Liberal government has chosen to not appoint a cabinet position for a Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport or announced any revisions accordingly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT with respect to Report No. 101-2011 (Medical Officer of Health) we request that the Minister of Health and Long Term Care realign the various Ministries' staff and budgets for all the programs and services denoted in the Ontario Public Health Standards under the Pubic Health Division, within the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care;

SOURCE: Board of Health

DATE: November 15-2011

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RE: **Report No. 101-2011 (Medical Officer of Health)**
Medical Officer of Health Report

AND THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, local MPP's, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and to all Local Public Health units in Ontario.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY --- RESOLUTION DISTRIBUTION

| | <i>To:</i> | <i>INSTRUCTIONS:</i> | <i>To:</i> | <i>INSTRUCTIONS:</i> |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
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| 2 | D. Heath | | | |
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