

April 27, 2009



The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

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The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
Regional Clerk

**RE: MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER
& MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED APRIL 9, 2009 RE:
ALPHA RESOLUTION
OUR FILE: E02-01**

Honourable Sir, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on April 22, 2009 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the following recommendations derived from information contained in the Polaris Institute Report entitled 'Murky Waters – The Urgent Need for Health and Environmental Regulations of the Bottled Water Industry' be endorsed:

'WHEREAS the bottled water industry has grown to a multi-million dollar industry in Canada; and

WHEREAS bottled water is estimated to be between 240-10,000 times more expensive than tap water; and

WHEREAS independent scientific studies have found toxic contaminants in bottled water products; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has issued ~30 separate recalls of ~50 bottled water products since 2000; and

WHEREAS environmental impacts encompass the production, transportation and disposal of bottled water; and

WHEREAS the bottled water industry is largely unregulated in Canada, being monitored on a voluntary basis, overseen by industry; and

WHEREAS bottled water is not required to meet the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*; and

WHEREAS bottled water lacks information on the source of the water, the contents of the bottled water, and the storage and expiry dates; and

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WHEREAS the bottled water industry extracts millions of litres of water per day at very little cost; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT aIPHa urges the Government of Canada to enact a comprehensive regulatory regime for the bottled water industry administered and enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada that includes:

- i) Bottled water conforming, at a minimum, to the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*,
- ii) Comprehensive bottled water labelling, including the water source, quantity and contents of any added ingredients, packaging date, expiry, treatment processes, the instruction "refrigerate after opening", and manufacturers contact information,
- iii) Public reporting of water quality tests performed by manufacturers from government-approved laboratories testing for bacteriological, chemical and radiological contaminants on a specified regular basis, and
- iv) Regular reviewing and updating of bottled water labelling and testing requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT aIPHa urges the Government of Canada to continue to significantly reinvest in public drinking water infrastructure through federal transfers to the provinces, territories and municipalities, possibly including from revenues derived from a special surtax levied on the profits of the bottled water industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Health Canada, Finance and the Environment, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, and CPHA be so advised; and

- b) THAT this resolution be forwarded to aIPHa for consideration by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Conference."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

c: See following page

- c: G. Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
L. Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada
J. Flaherty, Minister of Finance
J. Prentice, Minister of the Environment
D. Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer
D. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A)
D. Lynkowski, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Public Health
Association
L. Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health
Agencies
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- R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health