



July 4, 2005

**The Regional
Municipality
of Durham**

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
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The Right Honourable Paul Martin
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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**MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER &
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED JUNE 22, 2005 RE:
KINGSTON'S DENTAL CARE SERVICES RESOLUTIONS
(CC# 177 & 178)– Our File: P10-00**

Prime Minister Martin, the Health and Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on June 29, 2005, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

- "a) THAT the following resolutions of the City of Kingston regarding dental care services be endorsed:

Resolution No. 1 – Dental Care Services

WHEREAS Dental Care is not an included service under the publicly funded medical care system and must be financed by individual Canadians, and;

WHEREAS low income (lower socio economic) individuals tend to suffer higher rates of dental disease and decay, and;

WHEREAS the current system of dental services varies from community to community, but is very limited for low-income families and adults who do not typically have access to private dental benefits packages;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kingston supports the action of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and calls on the Government of Canada, in consultation with Provincial,



Territorial and Local Governments, to develop a comprehensive National Oral Health Strategy that would have, as its goal, providing universal access of both preventative and treatment services to all Canadians; and further

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada, in developing a comprehensive, universal, national dental strategy, be asked to evaluate the following four key areas of possible action, and to assess the effectiveness of each in either increasing the range of specific dental services or reducing the portion of the population excluded from access to dental care:

- a) Increase the level of service to ensure that all Canadians have access to a basic level of dental care;
- b) Change the eligibility for access into the programs so that more residents could access current level of dental services;
- c) Examine access to care and the factors leading to under utilization of existing programs. Increase the participation rate of those who currently have access to these programs from the estimated 20-25% utilization rate, and/or
- d) Continue to develop programs that target adults or children that have a direct impact on the other detriment of health and indirectly support oral health; and further

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Honourable John Gerretsen, MPP; the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health; the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier; the Honourable Peter Milliken, MP; the Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health; the Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and all municipalities on our standard mailing list.

Resolution No. 2 – Dental Care Services

WHEREAS Dental Care Service are an important component of physical health, personal well being and affect social acceptance an employability, and;

WHEREAS many residents of Ontario do not have adequate Dental Care Services as part of their employment benefits, and;

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WHEREAS persons working in low wage positions are not in receipt of social assistance payments but may have thousands of dollars in dental costs or may decline dental treatment due to cost issues, and;

WHEREAS persons on social assistance (Ontario Works and ODSP) have partial access to Dental Care Services based on discretionary decision making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Kingston supports the actions of the Council of Lennox & Addington and that the Province of Ontario be requested to develop a fair and consistent dental care program to be targeted at lower-wage working Ontarians, with eligibility for this program to be based on graduated payments and eligibility determined by commonly used criteria, such as the GST Rebate and/or NCB Eligibility, and that this supplementary dental program be funded through the Ontario Health Tax; and further

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities on our standard mailing list, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Honourable John Gerretsen MPP, the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Peter Milliken, MP; the Honourable Ujjai Dosanjh, Minister of Health; and the Right Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada.

- b) THAT the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Finance and Health, Chief Dental Officer of Canada, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Durham's M.P.s, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Finance and Health and Long-Term Care, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Durham M.P.P.s, ALPHA, OAPHD and the City of Kingston be advised."


Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMMT
Regional Clerk

PMM/aez

c: See Attached Page

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Kingston's Dental Care Services Resolutions

The Honourable Ralph Edward Goodale, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State
(Public Health)
Dr. Peter Cooney, Chief Dental Officer for Health Canada (OCDO)
Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO)
Dr. Colin Carrie, M.P. (Oshawa)
Ms. Judi Longfield M.P. (Whitby/Oshawa)
Mr. John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
Mr. Dan McTeague M.P.
Mr. Barry Devolin M.P. (Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
Ms. Bev Oda M.P. (Clarington/Scugog/Uxbridge)
Mr. Mark Holland M.P. (Ajax/Pickering)
The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
The Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health & Long-
Term Care
Dr. Sheila Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Long-Term
Care and Assistant Deputy Minister
Mr. Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge)
Mr. Jim Flaherty, MPP (Whitby/Ajax)
Mr. John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
Mr. Jerry Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
Ms. Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Victoria/Brock)
✓ Ms. L. Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health
Agencies (alPHA)
Ms. Bonnie Jeffrey, President, Ontario Association for Public Health
Dentistry (OAPHD)
Ms. C. Downs, City Clerk, City of Kingston
Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health