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September 20, 2007

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Health Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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

**MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER
& MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED SEPTEMBER 6,
2007 RE: CITY OF COLBORNE RESOLUTION
OUR FILE: P10**

Honourable Sir, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on September 19, 2007 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the following resolution of the City of Port Colborne regarding the assessment of Salvia Divinorum by Health Canada be endorsed:

'WHEREAS Salvia Divinorum is a perennial herb native to Mexico that is legally available for purchase in Canada by all persons, including minors, at corner stores, pharmacies and through the internet;

AND WHEREAS the active constituent salvinatorin A is the most potent hallucinogen known, causing the onset of hallucinogenic activity within five to ten minutes of being chewed and within 30 seconds of being inhaled;

AND WHEREAS the effects of salvia divinorum include psychic effects such as the perceptions of bright lights, vivid colours and shapes, as well as body movements and body or object distortions, other effects including dysphoria, uncontrolled laughter, a sense of loss of body, overlapping realities and hallucinations and adverse physical effects such as incoordination, dizziness and slurred speech;

AND WHEREAS Salvia divinorum and/or salvinatorin A have been placed under regulatory controls in Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Spain and Sweden and in the States of Louisiana, Delaware, Missouri, Tennessee and Oklahoma;



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AND WHEREAS the federal department Health Canada, headed by the Minister of Health, is responsible for helping Canadians maintain and improve their health and also for developing legislation and regulations, policies and operations that support the control of illicit drugs and other substances;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne believes that the availability of salvia divinorum and the risks associated with its use, particularly by adolescents and young adults, threatens the health of Canadians and out-weighs any benefits the substance offers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne petitions the Minister of Health to immediately call for Health Canada to undertake a review of salvia divinorum and its derivatives to determine the risks associated with the use of this substance and its widespread availability and with a view to taking the same proactive stance on the regulation of this substance for the health and safety of Canadians as other nations have for their citizens;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to J. Maloney, M.P. and to AMO for circulation to all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and endorsement.'; and

- b) THAT the Minister of Health Canada, Durham's MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Promotion, Durham's MPPs, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, ALPHA, all Ontario boards of health and the City of Port Colborne be so advised."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/daj

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