



April 23, 2010

RECEIVED

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier and Minister of Research and Innovation
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

APR 28 2010

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The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

Clerk's Department

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

**RE: MOTION FROM DR. HUGH DROUIN, COMMISSIONER OF
SOCIAL SERVICES RE: ELIMINATION OF SPECIAL DIET
ALLOWANCE OUR FILE: S06-03**

Honourable Sir, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on April 21, 2010 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, in its March 2010 budget, proposes to eliminate the Special Diet Allowance; and

WHEREAS many Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients have medical conditions which require special diets; and

WHEREAS the current special diet allowance process does require a qualified medical practitioner's recommendation; and

WHEREAS many social assistance recipients spend in excess of 70% of their monthly allowance on shelter costs; and

WHEREAS the basic allowance portion of social assistance rates does not equal the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket calculated annually by Durham Region's Health Department; and

WHEREAS numerous studies have verified that proper nutrition is a key determinant of health; and

WHEREAS it is inadvisable in this time of Provincial budget difficulty to create a new administrative process in the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to manage the new Nutritional Supplement Program while at the same time recipients of the current Special Diet Allowance may not be receiving this benefit for an uncertain period of time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Region of Durham requests that the Province continues the Special Diet Allowance administration through the Ministry of Community and Social Services; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province work with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), in collaboration with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to determine if the Special Diet Allowance program can be improved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Community and Social Services increase the Basic Allowance portion of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program to reflect the actual cost of a Nutritious Food Basket and;

THAT the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Finance, Health and Long Term Care and Health Promotion, Durham Region MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, OMSSA, aLPHa, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Consolidated Municipal Service Managers be so advised."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM III
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

- c: The Honourable L. Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community & Social Services
The Honourable D. Duncan, Minister of Finance
The Honourable D. Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable M. Best, Minister of Health Promotion
R. Johnson, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock)
W. Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Scarborough East)
C. Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Oshawa)
J. O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
J. Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
J. Dickson, MPP (Ajax/Pickering)
A. King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
B. Patterson, President, OMSSA
L. Stewart, Executive Director, aLPHa
P. Vanini, Executive Director, AMO
Consolidated Municipal Service Managers
H. Drouin, Commissioner of Social Services
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health



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

**RE: MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER &
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED APRIL 8, 2010 RE:
HEALTHY BABIES, HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM (HBHC)
OUR FILE: P10-00**

Honourable Sir, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on April 21, 2010 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

- "a) THAT the correspondence of the Simcoe Muskoka Board of Health, dated March 10, 2010, regarding adequate funding of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program be endorsed; and
- b) THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Finance, Health and Long-Term Care, and Health Promotion, Durham's MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, alPHa, and all Ontario boards of health be so advised."

Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM III
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

Encl.

- c: The Honourable L. Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
The Honourable D. Duncan, Minister of Finance
The Honourable D. Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable M. Best, Minister of Health Promotion
R. Johnson, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock)
W. Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Scarborough East)
C. Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Oshawa)



c. cont:

J. O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
J. Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
J. Dickson, MPP (Ajax/Pickering)
A. King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
L. Stewart, Executive Director, aPHa
Ontario Boards of Health
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health



March 10, 2010

Honourable Laurel Broten
Minister of Children and Youth Services
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Broten:

On behalf of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Board of Health I am writing to express our concern regarding the serious impact that insufficient funding of the SMDHU's Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program is having on the provision of service delivery. This is a 100 per cent funded Ministry of Children and Youth Services Program that is also mandated within the Ontario Public Health Standards. We urge you to provide adequate funding of the HBHC Program to promote both the universal and targeted aspects of this program.

The HBHC Program is delivered through health units across Ontario in order to promote the optimal development of all children (prenatal to age 6 years). It is a prevention and early-intervention program based on the understanding that early childhood experiences have long-term impacts on the physical and mental health of individuals. The SMDHU's HBHC Program provides service delivery throughout a geographical area of 8,731 square kilometers.

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services 2009 budget allocation to the SMDHU was \$2,419,133, which reflected a zero percent increase to base budget from 2008 funding levels. These funding shortfalls continue to undermine the capacity of the HBHC program to meet the goals of the program and deliver services adequately. The service planning schedule achievements continue to be impacted and program standard performance targets will continue to not be met. Unfortunately, communications with Ministry of Children and Youth Services consultants has not brought about any relief and other health units in the province are also challenged by service demands and insufficient budget allocations.

It is critical that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services recognizes the costs associated with delivering the HBHC Program on an annual basis. Both salary and operating costs have continued to escalate over time without respective increases to base budget. Non-allowable expenditures such as administration costs including payroll, purchasing, human resource personnel, general reception and office space also continue to rise. Negligible increases to base budget allocations over the past several years by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has resulted in significant impacts on SMDHU's HBHC Program, including the following: reduced services to children and families overall, waitlists for families in high-risk situations (such as those with mental health concerns, intimate partner violence, isolation, financial/food shortages, parenting concerns/stressors, physical health challenges and young single parents), the elimination of weekend coverage for postpartum telephone calls, the gapping or elimination of public health nurse and family home visitor positions, minimal spending on resources, supplies and staff development, and increased staff workload

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HBHC is an innovative and effective health promotion, early intervention program for prenatal and postpartum woman, infants, children and their families in Ontario. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is proud to provide such an important service to enhance the growth and development of all children universally and at high risk for developmental challenges. With this in mind, our Board of Health urges the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to critically review and revise the funding formula to adequately reflect the actual costs associated with delivering the HBHC Program. It is hoped that you will provide sufficient funds that will facilitate achievement of the goals and objectives of the HBHC Program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Dennis Roughley
Chair, Board of Health

DR:CS:mk

Copies to:

Hon. Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ms. Aileen Carroll, MPP, Barrie
Mr. Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
Mr. Garfield Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North
Mr. Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
All Ontario Boards of Health
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, ALPHA
Mayor Dave Aspden, City of Barrie
Mayor Ron Stevens, City of Orillia
Warden Cal Patterson, County of Simcoe
District Chair Gord Adams, District of Muskoka