

April 29, 2009



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

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: Funding of Dental Health Program for Low Income Families

It is the position of the Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit that the Government of Ontario should identify funding for dental health programming for low income families as part of the overall poverty reduction strategy.

On April 24, 2009, at a regular Board of Health meeting for Grey Bruce Health Unit, the following resolution, adapted from the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit, was passed and we respectfully request your support of, and action on this matter.

Resolution # 2009-47

WHEREAS low income families in need of dental care to relieve pain and suffering require assistance now; and

WHEREAS Health Canada notes the connection between poor oral health and systemic disease and the links between oral health and general health as well as the fact oral disease itself can cause pain, tooth loss and bad breath; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health notes that Grey and Bruce Counties consist of a large number of families whom are in the agricultural sector and may not have access to dental benefits and/or dental insurances; and

WHEREAS access to dental care is largely determined by the ability to pay, consequently, household income and insurance coverage are powerful determinants of dental care visits; and

WHEREAS families residing in Grey and Bruce Counties, as well as low income families throughout the province of Ontario, require immediate access to dental care in order to improve opportunities to support optimal health,

101 17th Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5 www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

OWEN SOUND
519-376-9420
1-800-263-3456
Fax 519-376-0605

WALKERTON
519-881-1920
1-800-263-3456
Fax 519-881-3920

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health urge the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, to immediately implement and fully fund the dental health program for low income families as promised in the 2008 provincial budget; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, Chair, Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, the Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion, our local members of Provincial Parliament, Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Boards of Health, Ontario Medical Officers of Health, the Children's Aid Society of the County of Bruce, Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound and the County of Grey, Owen Sound and District Dental Society and Wingham and District Dental Society.

Building Healthy Communities Together,

Original Signed by

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/cg

Copies to:

The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable Deborah Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth
The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
alPHa Board of Directors
Ontario Boards of Health, Chairs
Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Children's Aid Society of the County of Bruce
Children's Aid Society of Owen Sound and the County of Grey
Owen Sound and District Dental Society
Wingham and District Dental Society