



COPY

March 13, 2009

Office of the Regional Chair
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1
Fax: 905-825-8838

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

RE: MO-08-09 – Expansion of Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program

This will confirm that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Halton, at its meeting held Wednesday, March 4, 2009, adopted the following resolution:

1. THAT Regional Council approve the newly expanded CINOT program and increase the Health Department's 2009 tax supported budget by \$342,473 with 100% provincial funding, as set out in Report No. MO-08-09 re: "Expansion of Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program".
2. THAT the Regional Chair be requested to write to the Premier of Ontario, enclosing a copy of Report No. MO-08-09 and requesting that the provincial government fund the full cost (100%) of the new demand in the CINOT program on an ongoing basis, and fund CINOT separately from the global budget for general public health cost shared programs.
3. THAT the Regional Clerk be requested to send a copy of the Regional Chair's letter to the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA).

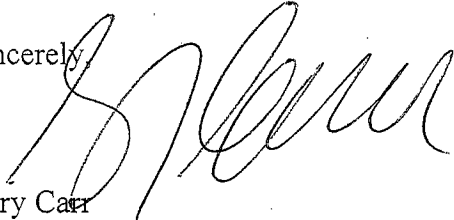
I wish to draw your attention to item #2 of the resolution for your consideration. Enclosed please find a copy of Report No. MO-08-09 for your information.

The Regional Municipality of Halton

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Carr", written in dark ink.

Gary Carr
Regional Chair
encl.

- c. The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion
The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. Charles Gardner, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health



Report To:	Chair and Members of Health and Social Services Committee
From:	Dr. Bob Nosal, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
Date:	January 29, 2009
Report No. - Re:	MO-08-09 - Expansion of Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Regional Council approve the newly expanded CINOT program and increase the Health Department's 2009 tax supported budget by \$342,473 with 100% provincial funding, as set out in Report No. MO-08-09 re: "Expansion of Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Program".
2. THAT the Regional Chair be requested to write to the Premier of Ontario, enclosing a copy of Report No. MO-08-09 and requesting that the provincial government fund the full cost (100%) of the new demand in the CINOT program on an ongoing basis, and fund CINOT separately from the global budget for general public health cost shared programs.
3. THAT the Regional Clerk be requested to send a copy of the Regional Chair's letter to the Ministry of Health Promotion, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA).

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee that on January 1, 2009, the provincial government expanded the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program to enhance access to urgent dental services for children and youth age 17 and under, and to provide out-of-hospital anaesthetic coverage for children age 5 to 17. Due to the future financial implications of this expansion, Council is to request the Ministries of Health Promotion and Health and Long Term Care to reconsider the funding process.

Background

Since 1987, the CINOT program has provided financial assistance for urgent dental care to children from birth to age 13. The purpose of this program is to ensure that no child goes without essential/emergency dental care as a result of inability to pay for dental services. The program is intended to be cost shared 75 per cent by the Province and 25 per cent by the municipalities. CINOT is a mandated program under the Ontario Public Health Standards. The health unit is

responsible for ensuring the payment of all covered treatment costs provided to children who are on the CINOT program.

On January 1, 2009, the Ministry of Health Promotion expanded the CINOT program to improve oral health among Ontario's low-income children and their families. This expansion is part of the provincial government's poverty reduction strategy for low-income Ontarians.

The CINOT program will be expanded via the following changes:

- An increase in coverage from the current maximum eligibility (age of 13 or the last day of the Grade 8 school year whichever is later) to a child's 18th birthday;
- General anaesthetic coverage for children four years old and under is increased to children up to their 18th birthday; and
- An addition of specialist fees for the new specialty of Dental Anaesthetists.

For the 2009 calendar year, the treatment costs of the CINOT expansion will be covered 100 per cent by the province for children aged 14 to 17 years. The portion allocated to health unit jurisdictions was based on the number of children (0 to 17 years) living in low income households, as defined by Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs. For Halton Region, the allocation for 2009 is \$342,473.

This allocation should be more than sufficient to cover the treatment costs of the CINOT expansion for youth aged 14 to 17 years. However, this funding cannot be used to cover the additional costs to manage the program (e.g., administrative and screening staff), and treatment costs associated with other changes that are part of the expansion (e.g., general anaesthetic coverage for children 5 to 13 years, including the cost for the new specialty of Dental Anaesthetists). These additional costs must be covered from the existing cost-shared public health budget. In addition, the provincial government promotion and marketing of the CINOT expansion may result in an increase in demand for CINOT by children aged 0 to 13 years.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

The Province has announced that it will provide 100% funding equalling \$342,473 for the CINOT expansion treatment costs for the calendar year 2009. As stated in the report, this funding is to be used to provide financial assistance for urgent dental care to youth from age 13 or the last day of the Grade 8 school year (whichever is later) to a child's 18th birthday, general anaesthetic coverage for youth in the same age group and the new specialty of Dental Anaesthetists. The \$342,473 in 100% funding should be more than adequate to cover the above treatment costs. However, this funding cannot be used to cover any required increase in staffing resources and other operating costs.

The expansion to CINOT also includes general anaesthetic coverage for children age 5 to 13 and specialist fees for dental anaesthetists. No provision has been made in the Health Department's 2009 Tax Supported Budget for these costs nor are they to be covered through the new 100% funding of \$342,473. The financial impact of these treatment costs is difficult to assess at this time, however, staff will report on them to Council through the in-year variance reporting process.

Furthermore, the 100% funding for the youth group will move to cost sharing on January 1, 2010. Although details are not available at this time about the approved funding level for 2010, there will be significant financial implications to Halton in 2010, due to the cost-sharing arrangement change. Financial implications for 2010 and beyond will be brought forward to be considered by Council once further information is made available from the Ministry of Health Promotion or as part of the 2010 budget process.

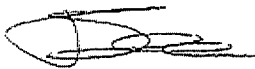
Conclusion

Financial assistance programs are required to help individuals in need of dental care whose families lack dental coverage or the ability to pay for care. In Halton, children and youth in need who have requested and qualified for CINOT have been supported financially to access dental treatment for several years. Through these additional funds and further promotion of financial assistance for dental treatment, a greater number of children should attain and maintain good oral health.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

This report relates to the Health and Social Services Committee Plan Theme 3 – Create and Improve Safe, Healthy, Liveable, Inclusive Communities, Goal 1 – Provide accessible, affordable public health and social services to the community.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce See
Director, Community Health Services



Robert M. Nosal MD FRCPC
Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health

Approved by



Pat Moyle
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report, please contact: Dr. Robert Hawkins Tel. # 7798
Gisele Franck Tel. # 7834