

May 26, 2011

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Minister's Office – Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0K9

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JUN / , 2011

alPHa

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

RE: Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada

At its April 27, 2011 meeting, the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Board of Health passed the following motion:

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health support the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada report by endorsing this request and sending correspondence to the Minister of Health and the local members of parliament; and

THAT, if approved, these recommendations be forwarded to alPHa for its review, analysis and potential support.

The evidence linking high sodium intake and a range of negative health outcomes including high blood pressure, stroke, and heart and kidney disease is well established. The current level of sodium in the Canadian food supply is clearly too high for good health. Population-wide strategies and both provincial and federal level policies that support a reduction in sodium intake levels are needed to improve the health of Canadians.

Almost a year has passed since the release of the *Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada* report; KFL&A Public Health Board of Health believe that governments and industry alike have a responsibility to act on the Sodium Working Group's recommendations to address the significant likelihood of sodium's contribution to preventable deaths and disease.

KFL&A Public Health Board of Health is urging the federal government to implement the Sodium Working Group's thirty three consensus recommendations made in the *Sodium Reduction Strategy for Canada* report and to encourage the Sodium Working Group to implement promptly and oversee the work that was outlined in the Group's terms of reference and the report.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will affect the health of a considerable number of Canadians.

Yours truly,



Beth Pater, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

Copy to: Board of Health members

- ✓L. Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- T. Hsu, MP, Kingston and the Islands
- S. Reid, MP, Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington (Ontario)