

Public Health

An accredited local public health agency affiliated with Queen's University

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12 November 2007

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Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Children and Youth Services
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Minister Matthews:

I am writing to send you my congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Children and Youth Services. As you are aware, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has a significant relationship with local public health agencies and is a significant funder for the programmes administered by local public health agencies that improve and enhance the health of Ontarian children. I am writing to say that we are looking forward to working with you on important health matters for the children of this area and would invite you to visit us and to see the programmes in action.

You may also be aware that for the last several years, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services has not provided the necessary increases to the various programmes that it funds through local public health agencies even to keep the programmes at a status quo. Given the normal increase in expenses, such as contract negotiations and wage settlements, and other increased costs, it is becoming harder and harder to maintain the level of service that is expected, not only by ourselves, and by the Ministry, but most importantly by the families that are served by these programmes. It is important that you be aware that, unless immediate action is taken, there will be service reductions in the KFL&A area for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Programme in 2008 and 2009, and possibly for preschool speech and language programmes as well. We have communicated with your predecessor, the Hon. Mary Anne Chambers on several occasions, but have not had a definitive response to these concerns. We trust that these issues can be solved, however, and that the level of service to the children of this area can be maintained. We would be very pleased to speak to you about these issues and to provide you with more details, at your convenience.

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KINGSTON, FRONTENAC AND LENNOX & ADDINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH

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We wish you well in your work in this important field and are always most willing to assist in any way we can to improve the working relationships and the services that are jointly provided by KFL&A Public Health and your Ministry.

Yours faithfully,



Ian MacDonald Gemmill, MD, CCFP, FRCP(C)
Medical Officer of Health

IMG:cbk

Copy to: Board of Health members
Hon. L. Dombrowsky, MPP, Hastings, Frontenac, Lennox-Addington
Hon. J. Gerretsen, MPP, Kingston and the Islands
✓L. Stewart, Executive Director, alPHa