



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

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*Visez Santé
dès
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**Main Office/Bureau
principal:**

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury, ON P3E 3A3
☎ (705) 522-9200
☎ (705) 522-5182

Branch Offices/Succursales:

101 rue Pine Street East
Box/Boîte 485
Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0
☎ (705) 864-1610
☎ (705) 864-0820

Espanola Mall
800 rue Centre Street
Unit/Unité 100 C
Espanola, ON P5E 1J3
☎ (705) 869-1271
☎ (705) 869-5583

6163 Highway/Route 542
Box/Boîte 87
Mindemoya, ON POP 1S0
☎ (705) 377-4774
☎ (705) 377-5580

3 rue King Street
Box/Boîte 58
St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0
☎ (705) 867-0472
☎ (705) 522-9200 x.332
☎ (705) 867-0474

November 14, 2005

The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers
Minister of Children and Youth Services

The Honourable George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

The Honourable Jim Watson
Minister of Health Promotion

Dear Ministers:

Re: Best Start Program

The Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion #74-05 regarding the above-noted matter at its October 20, 2005 meeting.

WHEREAS in spring 2005 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) announced the Best Start Strategy; a comprehensive, evidence-based program with a vision to improve access to high quality early learning and childcare programs. Best Start is designed to give children the best possible start in life and to help them achieve success in school, and

WHEREAS the Best Start Strategy is funded by the provincial government through the federal funds announced under the proposed National Plan for Early Learning and Child Care; and

WHEREAS the goal of the local Best Start Networks, of which the Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) is a member, is to review and support the final childcare service and transition plan and to develop a vision for the Best Start Integrated Service Delivery and Hub Models with plans to be completed in December 2005; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health provides public health programs and services, including Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) and the implications and expectations for public health programs and services within the Comprehensive Best Start Hub Model will not be known until further consultation during the fall of 2005;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health advocates to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion to recognize and fully fund any increases to public health programs and services, including HBHC, that are a direct result of Best Start; and

FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be shared with Dr. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, local Members of Provincial Parliament, local Members of Parliament, all Ontario Boards of Health and the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA).

The Sudbury & District Board of Health commends the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for its vision to improve access to high quality early learning and childcare programs. The Board is hopeful that the respective provincial governments will ensure the financial resources are appropriately allocated to ensure the realization of its vision along with the success of the Best Start Program.

Thank you for your support of public health programs and services.

Yours truly,

P. Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

c.: Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health
Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Local Members of Parliament
Ontario Boards of Health
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)