



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

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Day!*

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dès
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May 16, 2006

Electronic Mail

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

Re: *Inclusion of Preschool Nutrition Screening within Programs of the Government of Ontario*

The Government of Ontario has stated that it plans to strengthen healthy development, early learning and child care services during a child's first years. Related to meeting this goal, please be advised that at its April 20, 2006 meeting, the Sudbury & District Board of Health received a presentation by a Registered Dietician on *Bringing Nutrition Screening to Ontario Preschoolers*. The Board passed the following motion #24-06:

WHEREAS children's food choices directly affect their growth and development, health behaviours, school readiness and academic performance, which will influence their future contributions to society; and

WHEREAS the utilization of the NutriSTEP© screening tool may promote early identification of children at risk for nutritional problems and provide an entry point into the primary health care system where necessary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health requests that the Premier of Ontario establish a universal preschool nutrition screening program using NutriSTEP© to ensure that all children in Ontario have universal access to both the tool and its educational resources; and

FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Health Promotion, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Education, local members of provincial parliament, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD), City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) Best Start Network, and Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network.

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The Sudbury & District Board of Health understands that children's food choices directly affect their growth and development, health behaviours, school readiness and academic performance, which will influence their future contributions to society.

The Board seeks your attention and support in this important matter. Requesting that the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Sheela Basrur, table this motion at the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Health may assist in bringing a screening program that integrates with other early childhood initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

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

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c.: Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health Promotion
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ministry of Education
Ontario Boards of Health
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)
Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD)
City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) Best Start Network
Manitoulin-Sudbury Best Start Network