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October 24, 2008

Via Electronic Mail

The Honourable David Caplan
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister:

Re: Small Drinking Water Systems Funding

At its October 16, 2008 meeting, the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following resolution #48-08:

WHEREAS the government of Ontario has transferred legislative responsibility for five categories of non-residential and seasonal residential drinking water systems from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; and

WHEREAS amendments to the Health Protection and Promotion Act (1990), the Safe Drinking Water Act (2002) and the Ontario Water Resources Act (1998) will establish the legislative framework for a Small Drinking Water Systems program to be overseen by local health units; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has proposed funding be provided to local health units to hire, equip and train health inspectors to assess these drinking water systems; and

WHEREAS provincial funding is to be provided on a 100% basis for start-up activities, including an initial planning period followed by a 2 year period of conducting the initial site assessments; and

WHEREAS following the initial implementation period the funding is expected to be on a cost shared basis representing a financial burden for local municipalities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care commit to 100% funding of the Small Drinking-Water Systems program on an ongoing basis; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and all Ontario Boards of Health.

The Board appreciates your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

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

c.: Ontario Boards of Health

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Centre agréé d'enseignement en santé*