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RESOLUTION

Date: May 26th, 2010
Resolution: **#05-2010, Report No. 051-10 Re-Labeling of Caffeine Content in Prepackaged Foods**

MOVED BY:
SECONDED BY:

At its May 26th, 2010, the Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health adopted the **Report No. 051-10 Re-Labeling of Caffeine Content in Prepackaged Foods** considered by the Middlesex-London Board of Health at its April 15th, 2010 meeting to endorse the following recommendations;

WHEREAS caffeine in its natural and added forms is found in a growing list of products including coffee, tea, cola beverages, "energy" drinks, chocolate and some medications; and

WHEREAS caffeine intakes above certain levels may have adverse effects and children are at increased risk for possible behavioural effects from caffeine and women and children of childbearing age are at increased risk of possible reproductive effects; and

WHEREAS Health Canada recently announced it is authorizing the use of caffeine and caffeine citrate as a food additive in all carbonated soft drinks, not just cola beverages; and

WHEREAS there is currently no regulatory provision for mandatory quantitative labelling of caffeine (e.g. caffeine content: ___mg per "stated serving size") nor is there a requirement to identify the quantitative amount of caffeine in composite food containing ingredients that are natural sources of caffeine to allow consumers to accurately determine their daily caffeine intake;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health support the report of Middlesex-London Health Unit and also oppose the addition of caffeine and caffeine citrate in non-alcoholic carbonated water-based flavoured sweetened beverages; and call on the Food Directorate and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to make mandatory, specific caffeine content statements directly on food labels; and

FURTHER THAT based on several nutrition issues of public health concern (caffeine, sodium, trans fat, discretionary fortification, vitamin D, commercial marketing of food and beverages to children), that the Board of Health advocate to the Federal Minister of Health for legislation and regulations as part of a coordinated national plan for key food and nutrition issues.

- Carried
- Defeated
- Deferred

Chair - Board of Health