

June 25, 2008

The Honourable Margaret Best  
Minister - Minister's Office  
Ministry of Health Promotion  
777 Bay Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

**Subject: Board of Health Urging Consistent and Sufficient Funding to Maintain Program Requirements to Support Intended Outcomes of the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy**

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At its May 28, 2008 meeting, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit passed the follow resolution #BOH/2008/05/06:

*Whereas, The Smoke-Free Ontario strategy is designed to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by tobacco use, Canada's #1 cause of preventable death; and*

*Whereas, Smoke-Free Ontario funding supports Public Health Units to work towards that goal; and*

*Whereas, Since the inception of Smoke-Free Ontario funding, there has been no year over year cost of living increase on the base amounts for any of the three modalities; 1) Local Capacity Building: Prevention and Protection (Enforcement), 2) Youth Action Alliance, and 3) Tobacco Control Coordination; and*

*Whereas, In 2007 and 2008, the Ministry of Health Promotion allocated to two modalities small pockets of one-time funding for very restricted purposes with short time frame for expenditure and this runs counter to good long-term planning practices; and*

*Whereas, To adequately support all Smoke-Free Ontario programs allowing health units to fulfill all their requirements under the regulations, the Ministry of Health Promotion needs to provide predictable yearly increases on the base funding rather than random small pockets of one-time funding; and*

*Whereas, The program is being slowly eroded due to operating cost increases while the revenue budget is static;*

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved,** That the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Health Promotion urging the Minister to fund the program with consistent and sufficient funds to maintain program requirements to support the intended outcomes of the Smoke-Free Ontario strategy; and

Letter To: The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion  
Subject: Board of Health Urging Consistent and Sufficient Funding to Maintain Program  
Requirements to Support Intended Outcomes of the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy  
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*Furthermore, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health (A), local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Boards of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and the Leader of the Opposition.*

The Board seeks your attention to our request for consistent and sufficient funding to maintain program requirements to support the intended outcomes of the Smoke-Free Ontario strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Mac Bain, Chairperson  
Board of Health

- Copied to:
- 1) The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
  - 2) Dr. David C. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A), Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
  - 3) The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
  - 4) Monique Smith, MPP, Nipissing Constituency
  - 5) Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound Constituency
  - 6) David Ramsay, MPP, Timiskaming-Cochrane Constituency
  - 7) Ontario Boards of Health
  - 8) Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
  - 9) Wendy Carew, Director of Health Promotion & Resource Services, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit