

June 25, 2008

The Honourable Deb Matthews
Minister - Minister's Office
Minister of Children and Youth Services and
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Matthews:

Subject: Board of Health Requesting Consistent and Sufficient Funding Increases to Support the Poverty Reduction Strategy

At its May 28, 2008 meeting, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit passed the follow resolution #BOH/2008/05/04:

Whereas, The provincial government is undertaking a poverty reduction plan entitled, "Growing Stronger Together"; and

Whereas, The Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction is headed by the Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, the same Minister responsible for the Best Start Plan, which includes the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program as an integral component; and

Whereas, The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program supports children and families especially those at risk and living in poverty working with lone-parent families and promoting quality early learning and child care both of which are need as part of any strategy to overcome poverty; and

Whereas, Healthy Babies Healthy Children clientele require stable long term relationships with Public Health Nurses and Family Home Visitors to achieve these goals; and

Whereas, The Healthy Babies Healthy Children program requires annual cost of living increases to maintain consistent staffing and programming to contribute to the long term outcomes of the child poverty reduction priority; and

Whereas, The Ministry of Children and Youth Services cost of living increases received by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit for 2006 and 2007 were 1.06% and 3.14% respectively and for 2008 is anticipated to be 1.02 %, falling short of the actual 3% annual inflationary increase required to maintain staffing and programming;

Letter To: The Honourable Deb Matthew, Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister
Responsible for Women's Issues
Subject: Board of Health Requesting Consistent and Sufficient Funding Increases to Support the
Poverty Reduction Strategy
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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 Children and Youth Services urging the Minister to fund the program with consistent and sufficient increases to cover actual inflation rate in order to maintain programming requirements to support the intended outcomes of the poverty reduction strategy; and

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, 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 increases to support the poverty reduction strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Mac Bain, Chairperson
Board of Health

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