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September 4, 2007

The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers
Minister - Minister's Office
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Chambers:

Thank you for your letter dated June 11, 2007 in response to our letter concerning the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's financial pressures and the service delivery of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program.

In your letter, you indicated that the new funding represents a total increase of 4.2 per cent over our 2006 budget, that we received an increase of \$30,000 to our 2007 budget and that we will be receiving an increase of \$10,000 towards our 2008 interim budget. This represents a 3.2% per cent increase in 2007 and only a 1% increase in 2008. However, with salary increases negotiated at 3%, this does not provide sufficient funding to maintain our current positions and current service delivery. In addition, the Health Unit provides public health in-kind support of up to \$111,700 in 2007 to help support this program.

On behalf of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, I wish to express the concern of the Board once again relative to the Ministry approved operating base budget for HBHC Program. Continued funding shortfalls threaten the capacity of our HBHC program to continue to promote optimal health of young children in this district. I am requesting once again that you direct the appropriate Ministry staff to undertake a review of the funding allocation to the base operating HBHC budget for this Health Unit.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Daryl Vaillancourt, Chairperson
Finance & Property Committee, Board of Health

- c. Maggie Allen, Director, Strategic Initiatives Branch, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Bennett Lee, Manager, Early Years – Early Years Program, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Dr. George Pasut, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Monique Smith, M.P.P., Nipissing Contingency Office
- David Ramsay, M.P.P., Timiskaming – Cochrane Constituency Office
- Norm Miller, M.P.P., Parry Sound Constituency Office
- Anthony Rota, MP, Nipissing-Timiskaming Constituency Office
- Tony Clement, MP, Parry Sound – Muskoka Constituency Office
- Ontario Boards of Health