

October 13, 2009

Honourable Margaret Best
Minister - Minister's Office
Minister of Health Promotion
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

On behalf of the Board of Health of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit I am writing to express our concerns regarding the reduction in the funding of the Smoke-Free Ontario programs. We feel it was short sighted to reduce funding for this program before alternative Programs have been identified. Youth Action Alliance activities have been very successful in our communities and deciding to cancel it midway through the year has put a strain on Health Unit resources.

We understand that the Ministry of Health Promotion has the right to make changes in the programs it funds and the emphasis of its initiatives, but we request that these changes be made with adequate warning. The staff of the Health Unit are currently making their 2010 plans and setting budgets for 2010 which becomes very difficult to do without knowing the funding for Smoke-Free Ontario for 2010 especially now since its seems uncertain whether the program will be funded at all in 2010.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Health Promotion in promoting Smoke-Free living.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Mac Bain, Chairperson
Board of Health

Copied to: Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, Tim Hudak, Conservative Party of Ontario; Andrea Horwath, New Democratic Party of Ontario; Honourable Monique Smith, MPP (Nipissing); Norm Miller, MPP (Parry Sound/Muskoka); David Ramsay, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane); Member Municipal Councils; Ontario Boards of Health; Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies; Wendy Carew, Director of Health Promotion & Resource Services, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit