

February 23, 2006

Minister Mary Anne Chambers
Ministry of Children and Youth Services,
Toronto Region
477 Mount Pleasant Road, 3rd floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1G1

Dear Minister Chambers:

**RE: The Regional Municipality of Durham Board of Health
Resolution – Best Start Strategy**

The Board of Health, for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, at its Board of Health meeting on February 15, 2005, endorsed Resolution No. 06-01 endorsing the Board of Health for The Regional Municipality of Durham endorsement of the Board of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit resolution regarding the Best Start Strategy as follows:

That the resolution of the Board of Health for The Regional Municipality of Durham endorsing the Board of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit resolution regarding the Best Start Strategy be endorsed;

WHEREAS in spring 2005 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) announced the Best Start Strategy; a comprehensive, evidence-based program with a vision to improve access to high quality early learning and childcare programs. Best Start is designed to give children the best possible start in life and to help them achieve success in school;

WHEREAS the Best Start Strategy is funded by the provincial government through the federal funds announced under the proposed National Plan for Early Learning and Child Care;

WHEREAS the goal of the local Best Start Networks, of which the Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) is a member, is to review and support the final childcare service and transition plan and to develop a vision for the Best Start Integrated Service Delivery and Hub Models with plans to be completed in December 2005;

WHEREAS the Board of Health provides public health programs and services, including Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) and the implications and expectations for public health programs and services within the Comprehensive Best Start Hub Model will not be known until further consultation during the fall of 2005;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health advocates to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-

Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion to recognize and fully fund any increases to public health programs and services, including HBHC, that are a direct result of Best Start;

FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be shared with Dr. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, local Members of Provincial Parliament, local Members of Parliament, all Ontario Boards of Health and the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA);

THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Health & Long-Term Care, and Health Promotion, Simcoe County and District of Muskoka MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, aPHa, OPHA and all Ontario boards of health be advised.

Please consider lending your support to this position in an effort to strengthen the public health system in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Roughley". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dennis Roughley, Chairman
Board of Health

DR/dmc

c.: Premier Dalton McGuinty
Minister George Smitherman
Minister James Watson
Simcoe County MPP's
District of Muskoka MPP's
Dr. Sheela Basrur, CMOH
aPHa
OPHA
All Ontario Boards of Health