



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

21 Wolsley Street
Kenora, ON P9N 3W7

June 2, 2011

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Wynne:

Northwestern Health Unit supports Private Members *Bill 100, Public Transport and Highway Improvement Amendment Act, 2010*, which calls for paved shoulders on provincial highways and the associated signage that warn vehicles of their requirement to share the road with pedestrians and cyclists.

At its May 27, 2011, Board of Health Meeting, the Northwester Health Unit passed the attached resolution in support of recommendations from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and associated resolutions from Ontario Health Units, regarding *Bill 100*.

As an Ontario health unit, we are mandated by the *Ontario Public Health Standards* to address the determinants of health, including the physical environments in which our residents live, work, learn and play. We encourage the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to adopt *Bill 100* as the next step in developing a provincial transportation system that encourages and supports active modes of transportation.

Yours in health,

John Albanese
Chair, Board of Health

Enclosure

c: Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Margarett Best, Minister of Health Promotion & Sport
Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines & Forestry
Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure
Howard Hampton, MPP, Kenora-Rainy River
Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
All Ontario health units

NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH

No. 67 - 2011

MOTION/RESOLUTION

Moved by M. Harland J. Belluz

Seconded by M. Fisher

WHEREAS Bill 100 requires the Minister of Transportation to construct, during resurfacing, one-meter (minimum) paved shoulders on prescribed highways and provide signage that warns vehicles to watch for and share the road with pedestrians and cyclists;

WHEREAS Bill 100 will make it possible for people to cycle and walk more safely on Ontario's secondary highways. Increased cycling and walking for recreation, commuting and as a general means of getting around, has major health and environmental benefits.

WHEREAS physical environment is a social determinant of health and we know that the way our roads and communities are designed directly affects health. Also, as a means of injury prevention, safe road design, along with active transportation features such as cycling lanes and sidewalks, which translates into more walkers and cyclists being on the street, results in lower rates of vehicle-pedestrian collisions.

WHEREAS the availability of paved shoulders on our highways, along with appropriate signage and other safety features, would therefore serve to enhance active transportation opportunities across the province. The passage of Bill 100 would signify a very sound societal investment.

WHEREAS this would build on active transportation initiatives at the municipal levels.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health supports the recommendations of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, to encourage the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to adopt Bill 100.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and Ontario Boards of Health.

Date May 27, 2011

Chair John Albanese

Table with 4 columns: Name, Yea, Nay, Disclosure of Interest. Rows include J. Albanese, J. Belluz, D. Brown, D. Canfield, M. Fisher, R. Fortier, M. Harland, J. Roy, P. Ryan, D. Squires, B. Thompson.