



January 11, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

At its November 10, 2010, meeting the Board of Health of the Peterborough County-City Health Unit passed the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Peterborough County-City Board of Health call on our federal government to do the following:

- Urge the Prime Minister to encourage his U.S. counterpart to work towards full licensing of all U.S. manufacturers of tobacco products; and
- Urge the federal government to prohibit the sale of raw materials to unauthorized manufacturers in Canada.”

Commercial tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Ontario. In Peterborough, approximately 22% of adults smoke which is above the provincial average. The Peterborough County-City Board of Health is particularly concerned about the availability of low cost unregulated tobacco products in our communities and the risk of harm to our local youth and young adults. For this reason, we encourage you and your representatives to continue your efforts internationally, with regards to the licensing of tobacco manufacturers in the USA, and nationally, by introducing legislation that would interrupt the supply of raw materials to unauthorized manufacturers operating in Canada.

The Peterborough County-City Board of Health is committed to consulting with all community partners to provide leadership in any plan to eliminate or reduce unregulated tobacco products and welcomes opportunities to support the federal and provincial governments in their responsibility to address the supply of unregulated tobacco products and ensure product regulation and oversight of production.

We would like to express our appreciation for the actions that the federal government and the Minister of Public Safety have already taken to reduce the supply of unregulated tobacco, and look forward to the proposed multimedia campaign by the Canada Revenue Agency that will emphasize the link between buying unregulated tobacco products and supporting organized crime groups. We anticipate continued strong action on this very important public health issue in the future.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Jim Embrey  
Chair, Board of Health  
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit



January 11, 2011

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health, Government of Canada  
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture  
Postal Locator: 0906C  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

At its November 10, 2010, meeting the Board of Health of the Peterborough County-City Health Unit passed the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the Peterborough County-City Board of Health call on our federal government to do the following:

- Urge Health Minister Aglukkaq to fund local smoking cessation programs targeted at pregnant and postpartum mothers."

Commercial tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Ontario. In Peterborough, approximately 22% of adults smoke and smoking during pregnancy is double the provincial rate. The Peterborough County-City Board of Health is particularly concerned about the availability of low cost unregulated tobacco products in our communities, the lack of community-based cessation services, and the risk of harm especially to young women and pregnant and post partum mothers.

The Peterborough County-City Health Unit is very appreciative of funding received from Health Canada to deliver an intensive cessation project for the last three years however that funding ends March 31, 2011. This will be a regrettable loss for our community. Your government can make a difference by allocating new resources to this essential component of a comprehensive tobacco strategy. The Peterborough County-City Board of Health is committed to consulting with all community partners to provide local leadership in tobacco control including the provision of cessation services and welcomes an opportunity to explore in partnership with local prenatal service providers funding targeted towards pregnant and postpartum women and those of preconception age.

On behalf of our communities the Board of Health would like to express our appreciation for your past leadership in tobacco control and we look forward to a renewed federal tobacco strategy and strong action on this very important public health issue in the future.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Jim Embrey  
Chair, Board of Health  
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit



January 11, 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty,  
Premier of Ontario  
Office of the Premier, Legislative Building  
Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

At its November 10, 2010, meeting the Board of Health of the Peterborough County-City Health Unit passed the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Peterborough County-City Board of Health call upon Premier McGuinty and his provincial Cabinet Ministers to work closely with the federal government in efforts to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use through a comprehensive tobacco strategy.”

Commercial tobacco use continues to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Ontario. The Peterborough County-City Board of Health is particularly concerned about the availability of low cost tobacco products, the lack of sufficient community-based cessation services, and the risk of harm to our local youth and pregnant mothers in our community as the prevalence of unregulated tobacco becomes increasingly evident throughout our communities.

We are pleased that the report completed by the Tobacco Strategy Advisory Group to the Minister of Health Promotion and Sport recommends a ‘whole government’ approach and encourage you and your Cabinet Members to actively engage the federal government in addressing the supply of commercial tobacco products. We look forward to the renewed Smoke Free Ontario Strategy trusting it will: address tobacco supply issues, introduce prices that discourage youth and young adults from starting, and support others in their quit attempts; ensure product regulation and oversight of production; provide comprehensive cessation supports; and reduce access to tobacco products by youth.

On behalf of our communities the Board of Health would like to express our appreciation for your past leadership in tobacco control and we look forward to strong action on this very important public health issue in the future.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Jim Embrey  
Chair, Board of Health  
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit



January 11, 2011

The Honourable Margaret R. Best,  
Minister of Health Promotion and Sport  
Office of the Minister  
Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport  
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

At its November 10, 2010 meeting, the Board of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit passed the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Peterborough County-City Health Unit...Congratulate the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport for continuing its support of local youth engagement in tobacco use prevention and request funding for a pilot project of the “Reward and Reminder” approach with interested local partners to strengthen existing prohibition of sales and retail promotion to youth under 19 years of age.”

Our Board of Health believes that our youth should expect to be protected from the negative health effects of tobacco use and addiction, while being supported to take on a greater role in health promotion as the future leaders of our communities.

We are pleased that the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport has sustained its commitment to youth with the introduction of the Youth Engagement funding in 2010. The funds that are to be made available to community organizations, health units and regional TCANs will help to foster youth engagement at the community level.

Our health unit is also interested to explore new strategies that will assist in reducing youth access to commercial tobacco products. A unique model called “Reward and Reminder” that comes from the US is based on research of behavioural influences that underlie effective prevention of tobacco sales to minors. This model offers an approach that relies on community engagement and aligns well with principles of self-determination.

Our two local First Nation communities have expressed an interest in this approach. Our agreed next step would be to organize a workshop and learning opportunity on Reward and Reminder with them and invite other interested organizations. We propose bringing representatives from the founders of Reward and Reminder (Paxis Institute) to Peterborough and engage in a meaningful dialogue on what the model offers as well as its relevance to our communities. The provision of financial support from the Ministry of Health Promotion & Sport will help us take these important next steps.

We would also like to offer our community as a pilot site for this new initiative targeted at First Nations communities. We are currently the only Board of Health that includes representatives from both our local First Nations and the issue of tobacco enforcement in First Nations communities is one that we feel well-positioned to address. On behalf of our communities the Board of Health would like to express our

appreciation for your past leadership in tobacco control and we look forward to strong action on this very important public health issue in the future.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Jim Embrey  
Chair, Board of Health  
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit