

October 10, 2008



The Honorable Margaret Best
Minister of Health Promotion
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

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Dear Minister Best,

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At its meeting held September 26, 2008, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit passed a resolution to support ongoing and enhanced Ministry of Health Promotion funding to Youth Action Alliances and to expand the work throughout the Porcupine Health Unit catchment area; and to identify to the Ministry of Health Promotion the need for further funding to support the expansion of Youth Action Alliances to address lifestyle topic areas.

The Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit resolved as follows:

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health Promotion, Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy has established peer leadership programs called Youth Action Alliances (YAAs) within each health unit to teach young people the skills needed to work on policy related tobacco control issues; and

WHEREAS YAAs aim to involve middle and high school age youth in community-based tobacco control activities that promote youth participants' understanding of how, through collective action, they can positively affect change in their community and change social norms that support manufactured tobacco use to counter tobacco industry marketing practices; and

WHEREAS the Porcupine Health Unit has received funding for a Timmins based YAA and has been successful in meeting the Scope of Service requirements; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Health Promotion, Margaret Best, challenged YAAs to include other healthy lifestyle issues within the tobacco control work that is being done when possible in 2008; and

WHEREAS the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit has identified the value of employing youth to address issues of public health importance and to develop their leadership skills;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit calls upon the Ministry of Health Promotion to:

- i) continue funding for YAAs and enhance funding to broaden the peer leadership program work beyond the City of Timmins to include the other geographies within the health unit; and
- ii) provide additional funding to enhance YAAs' expansion to include other healthy lifestyle topics; and

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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit communicate its support for the continued and enhanced funding for YAAs to the Minister of Health Promotion, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and to the Boards of Health throughout Ontario.

We thank you for your consideration in the expansion of Youth Action Alliances, and we look forward to your response.

Yours very truly,



Gary Scripnick, Chair
Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit

GS:mc

pc: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health