

# HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD COUNTIES BOARD OF HEALTH

## Resolution

### **Back-to-school and winter clothing allowances for children in families on social assistance**

WHEREAS the province has implemented the Ontario Child Benefit with monthly payments scheduled to begin in July 2008; and,

WHEREAS the implementation of the Ontario Child Benefit will restructure social assistance and the back-to-school and winter clothing allowances will be eliminated from Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits; and,

WHEREAS the back-to-school and winter clothing allowances serve a specific need for families receiving social assistance; and,

WHEREAS families receiving social assistance do not have adequate finances and will not have sufficient monthly income to allow them to save money to address these particular needs; and,

WHEREAS families receiving social assistance and purchasing school supplies and winter clothing for their children will have even less ability to purchase healthy foods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit calls upon the provincial government to continue to issue both the back-to-school and the winter clothing allowances;

AND FURTHER THAT these allowances be paid 100% by the Province of Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, Madeline Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services, Deb Mathews, Minister of Children and Youth Services, Leona Dombrowsky, MPP Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox & Addington, Lou Rinaldi, MPP Northumberland, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Hastings-Prince Edward & Lennox & Addington Social Service Agencies and to the boards of health throughout Ontario.