



Sudbury & District

## Health Unit

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santé publique

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May 24, 2011

Honourable Chris Bentley  
Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Building  
720 Bay Street  
11th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister:

**Re: Liquor License Act**

At its meeting on May 19, 2011, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #28-11:

*WHEREAS on February 23, 2011, the Ministry of the Attorney General proposed changes to the Liquor Licence Act (LLA) including the removal of restricted areas for alcohol beverages at community festivals /events and the extension of alcohol serving hours at special events from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.; and*

*WHEREAS in Sudbury, 84% of adults and 60% of teens (12 to 18 years of age) indicated they had consumed alcohol, which is significantly higher than for Ontario adults (79%) and teens (45%) and among current drinkers 12 years of age and over, 20% reported hazardous or harmful drinking in Sudbury, compared to the Ontario rate of 15%. (CCHS, 2007/08); and*

*WHEREAS each year alcohol puts this province in a \$456 million deficit due to direct costs related to healthcare and enforcement (G. Thomas, CCSA); and*

*WHEREAS alcohol is causally related to over 65 medical conditions. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2011) has indicated that alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease burden and that the harmful use of alcohol results in approximately 2.5 million deaths each year; and*

*WHEREAS research strongly indicates that when alcohol is made readily available, consumption and associated problems increased; conversely when restrictions are on availability are in place, associated problems with alcohol use decrease. Thus the regulation of the physical availability of alcohol is one of the top alcohol policy practices in reducing harm (Barbor et al., 2010); and*

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*WHEREAS the proposed changes to the LLA present the potential for substantial negative public health impacts on the health of our individuals and our communities; and*

*WHEREAS Boards of Health are mandated to work with municipalities and community partners to develop healthy policies and programs that address alcohol use;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health petition the provincial Ministry of the Attorney General to consider the negative impact to existing healthy public policy in Ontario and to not proceed with the proposed changes to Ontario's Liquor Licence Act; and*

*FURTHERMORE THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to all Ontario Boards of Health, provincial government partners and local members of provincial parliament, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)*

The proposed LLA changes will weaken the existing public policy and the level of community safety that local efforts have achieved. The health and safety implications of the proposed amendments must be taken into consideration.

The Sudbury & District Board of Health urges the Ministry of the Attorney General to not proceed with the proposed amendments to the LLA and that a wider consultation be undertaken with Ontario's public health services.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc.: Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Margarett Best, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport  
Rick Bartolucci, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Michael A. Brown, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
France G linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
✓ Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Siu Mee Cheng, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association  
Ontario Boards of Health