



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

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June 30, 2011

Honorable Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block
10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A2C4

Dear Minister:

Re: The Role of Public Health Inspectors in Maintaining Housing in Northern and Rural Communities

At its meeting on May 19, 2011, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #30-11:

WHEREAS the health risks associated with housing conditions are well known and are influenced by physical, biological, social and psychological factors; and

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Board of Health has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to improve the social and economic conditions that impact health which include healthy and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS local research conducted in 2008, in partnership with Laurentian University, identified a perceived need for increased public health involvement in housing-related issues; and

WHEREAS in November 2010, a joint Sudbury & District Health Unit, Laurentian University research team, supported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, released the report: The Role of Public Health Inspectors in Maintaining Housing in Northern & Rural Communities; and

WHEREAS based on research findings, the aforementioned report recommended nine actions to further support public health inspector interventions related to housing and health; these ranged from actions pertaining to specific public health unit practice to additional research and policy advocacy initiatives; and

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health endorse the recommendations of the report: The Role of Public Health Inspectors in Maintaining Housing in Northern and Rural Communities; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health urge the Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport to also endorse the report's recommendations, and act on those pertaining to the development of guidance documents and training opportunities for Public Health Inspectors; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion and the associated report be forwarded to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario; the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario Boards of Health.

The executive summary of the report can be accessed online through the Sudbury & District Health Unit website. A copy of the full report is attached for your convenience. It is the Board's hope that the Ministry will act on the report recommendations pertaining to the development of guidance documents and training opportunities for Public Health Inspectors.

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

Yours sincerely,



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

cc.: Minister of Health Promotion and Sport
Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
Public Health Agency of Canada
Canadian Public Health Association
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Siu Mee Cheng, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Boards of Health