

June 18, 2008

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Province of Ontario
Main Legislative Building, Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Dear Premier McGuinty:

During its June 18, 2008 meeting, the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) endorsed the Region of Durham Council's resolution to the province requesting the registration of rest and retirement homes with local health units.

The board further directed that a copy of the SMDHU board resolution of endorsement be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ministers responsible for Seniors, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Municipal Affairs and Housing, local area Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario Boards of Health.

Please find enclosed a briefing note including resolution 08-07.

Sincerely,



Dennis Roughley,
Chair, Board of Health

DR:pgc

Attch (2)

- c. Minister Responsible for Seniors
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Minister of Health Promotion
Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing
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SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
Briefing Note

**Registration of Rest and Retirement Homes with Local
Boards of Health**

Update: New

Date: June 16, 2008

Issue:

The Region of Durham, supported by the Boards of Health for Sudbury & District Health Unit and the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Health Unit, has requested the provincial government introduce legislation requiring the registering of rest and retirement homes with the local boards of health. This resolution was made on the principle that the health and well being of residents in rest and retirement homes need to be protected.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. The Board of Health of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) endorse the Region of Durham Council resolution to the province requesting the registration of rest and retirement homes with local health units.
2. A copy of the SMDHU board resolution of endorsement be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ministers responsible for Seniors, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Municipal Affairs and Housing, local area Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario Boards of Health.

Current Facts:

There are estimated to be over 700 rest and retirement homes in Ontario including 44 within the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit boundaries. In Ontario, there is currently no legislation pertaining to rest and retirement homes that would require them to register with their local boards of health.

Background:

Some rest and retirement homes have strong working relationships with the SMDHU. Most relationships, however, have been reactive, with health unit staff responding to requests for services from the homes. Maintaining complete, current lists of operating rest and retirement homes is difficult when not mandated. Such lists are important in reaching all homes with educational programming including proactive infection control.

SIMCOE MUSKOKA DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
Briefing Note

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