



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

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September 22, 2011

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The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Federal Minister of Health
Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Minister:

Re: Reducing Artificial Trans Fat

At its meeting on September 15, 2011, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #46-11:

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed motion #55-06 encouraging the Federal Minister of Health to act on the recommendations from the Trans Fat Task Force report: TRANSforming the Food Supply, June 2006; and

WHEREAS the Federal Minister of Health introduced a voluntary approach to reducing artificial trans fat in the food supply rather than the regulatory approach recommended by the Trans Fat Task Force; and

WHEREAS the results of the Trans Fat Monitoring Program, implemented by the Federal Minister of Health between 2006 and 2009, indicate that some progress has been made to reduce artificial trans fat in the Canadian food supply, a considerable number of products continue to contain unacceptable levels including many foods often consumed by children; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the World Health Organization published its scientific update on the health consequences of artificial trans fat, confirming that artificial trans fats adversely affect cardiovascular risk factors and increase the risk of coronary heart disease events, and recommended that artificial trans fat be significantly reduced or virtually eliminated in the food supply; and

WHEREAS products labelled 'trans fat free' are often more expensive than comparable products creating disparities in exposure to artificial trans fat thus disproportionately affecting people living on low income; and

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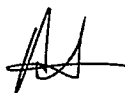
WHEREAS the Toronto Board of Health passed the report Reducing Artificial Trans Fat in Toronto: Need for Action, July 2011, that calls for the Federal Minister of Health to regulate the amount of artificial trans fat in the Canadian food supply, as recommended by the Trans Fat Task Force, June 2006, and requests that Health Canada ensure monitoring of trans fat in the Canadian food supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health support the Toronto Board of Health and continue to urge the Federal Minister of Health to implement the recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force report: TRANSforming the Food Supply, June 2006, and introduce national regulation of trans fat in the Canadian food supply as well introduce a comprehensive, timely monitoring of trans fat with regular reports to the public; and

FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to the Federal Ministers of Health, Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Chief Public Health Officer of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Members of Parliament for Sudbury and districts, Members of Provincial Parliament for Sudbury and districts, the premier of Ontario, the provincial Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion and Sport and Agriculture, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, as well as the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) for distribution to all Ontario Boards of Health and constituent municipalities.

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

Yours sincerely,



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

- c.:
- The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 - Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada
 - Michael A. Brown, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
 - France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
 - Rick Bartolucci, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
 - Claude Gravelle, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
 - Carole Hughes, Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
 - Glenn Thibeault, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
 - The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
 - The Honourable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport
 - The Honourable Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 - Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
 - Si Mee Cheng, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
 - ✓ Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
 - All Ontario Boards of Health
 - Sudbury & District Health Unit Constituent Municipalities