



**Thunder Bay District  
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April 25, 2005

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281, Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
TORONTO ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

**re: Amending Bill 164 – Smoke-Free Ontario Act  
Our Resolution 05-42**

At its Regular Board Meeting of April 20, 2005, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health passed the following resolution requesting the amendment of Bill 164, "Smoke-Free Ontario Act" to ban the sale of smokeless tobacco products in Ontario.

During the past two years, Thunder Bay District Health Unit staff has been informed by students in Thunder Bay high schools that "large numbers" of students are using smokeless tobacco. Many of these users report that their first use was associated with belonging to certain sports organizations. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, Grey Bruce, Perth District, Peterborough County-City, and North Bay & District Health Units note similar anecdotal reports that use among some groups of teens is high and appears to be increasing among Ontario young people, particularly in the North.

***"WHEREAS** the Thunder Bay District Health Unit is mandated to work to reduce the incidence of oral cancer by 10% by 2010;*

***AND WHEREAS** Public Health staff with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit have been informed by students in Thunder Bay high schools that "large numbers" of students are using smokeless tobacco and that their first use was often associated with belonging to certain sports organizations;*

***AND WHEREAS** the Minister of Health's Expert Panel in their 1999 Report "Actions will Speak louder than Words: Getting Serious about Tobacco Control in Ontario" state "There is documented evidence that manufacturers use a graduated strategy to move new users along to more addictive smokeless tobacco products." and recommended a ban on smokeless tobacco products as a way of eliminating one of the gateways to nicotine addiction;*

***AND WHEREAS** a unique opportunity exists to eliminate a potential tobacco delivery system while the province is introducing comprehensive tobacco control legislation with Bill 164 - Smoke-Free Ontario Act;*

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Thunder Bay District Board of Health endorse the Minister of Health's Expert Panel recommendations in "Actions will Speak louder than Words: Getting Serious about Tobacco Control in Ontario" by writing to the Premier of Ontario, to request the government support the amendment of Bill 164 – Smoke Free Ontario Act to ban the sale of smokeless tobacco in Ontario.

**AND FURTHER THAT** copies of this letter be sent to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco, the Association of local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, all Ontario Boards of Health, and member municipalities; and to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs with a summary of the position of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit."

Sincerely,



Connie Bryson, Chair  
Thunder Bay District Board of Health

copy: The Hon. G. Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Dr. S. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Mr. M. Gravelle, MPP, Thunder Bay - Superior North  
Mr. B. Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay - Atikokan  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)  
Ontario Public Health Association  
Ontario Boards of Health  
Member Municipalities  
Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco  
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs