

**RESOLUTION**Date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Resolution #: 03-2008 - SUPPORT BILL 69

MOVED BY: Mandy ArmstrongSECONDED BY: Sylvia Fente

WHEREAS the World Health Organization and Health Canada concur that second-hand smoke increases the chance of: lung cancer by 25%, heart disease by 10%, leukemia, lymphoma, and cancer of the sinuses, brain, breast, uterus, cervix, and thyroid. It is also related to asthma and other chronic respiratory problems; and

WHEREAS the World Health Organization recognizes that second-hand smoke has the following impacts specifically on children: respiratory illnesses and symptoms, exacerbates pre-existing asthma and causes new-onset asthma, reduces the rate of lung function and growth, increases the risk of middle ear disease, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; and

WHEREAS Health Canada states that children are especially vulnerable to second-hand smoke because their lungs are still growing and developing, their immune systems are less developed thereby does not protect them as much from tobacco smoke, and that children are smaller and breath more quickly thereby taking in more harmful chemicals for their body size when compared to adults. ; and

WHEREAS in general, children are less able to remove themselves from exposure; and

WHEREAS new evidence is emerging concerning second-hand smoke's toxicity in cars due to it being a confined space. Smoking one cigarette for only five minutes in a vehicle can create a level of respirable suspended particles that is similar to a smoky bar ; and

WHEREAS according to the Canadian Community Health Survey, 11.8% and 8.8% of non smokers 12 years and older in the Northeastern Ontario and Timiskaming respectively were regularly exposed to second-hand smoke in the past month in vehicles, which is higher than Ontario; and

WHEREAS Bill 69 intends to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act with the addition of a section that in brief:

1. Prohibits smoking or having lighted tobacco in motorized vehicles while a person who is less than 16 years of age is present in the vehicle;
2. Enforces the Act by means of police officers or officers appointed for carrying out the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act;
3. If guilty, is liable to a fine if not more than \$250

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Timiskaming Board of Health endorse the provincial government to pass Bill 69, an act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act in order to protect children and youth under the age of 16 from second-hand smoke in motor vehicles; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Timiskaming Board of Health continues to endorse steps to limit children's exposure to second-hand smoke in vehicles via public education; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Timiskaming Board of Health communicates its support for the passage of Bill 69 to Timiskaming's local municipal councils, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Public Health Association, and to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Children and Youth Services, Transportation, the Federation of Northern Municipalities of Ontario as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

- Carried  
 Defeated  
 Deferred

Brian Hughes

Chair - Board of Health