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June 25, 2009

The Honourable Margaret Best
Minister of Health Promotion
18th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

Re: Board of Health Support for the United Way-Windsor-Essex County's Funding Proposal to the Ministry of Health Promotion

To address government commitments to improve child and youth health issues, the Ministry of Health Promotion, in 2009, developed a "Child and Youth Health and Wellness After-School Strategy". The strategy is focused on supporting a comprehensive after-school program in specific priority neighbourhoods where school-age children residents can benefit from new or enhanced programs focused on physical activity, healthy eating and nutrition, wellness, and personal health education. It is anticipated that the strategy will support and contribute to the following outcomes: decrease in childhood obesity, increase in fruit and vegetable consumption, increased physical activity in children and youth, improved learning and student achievement, a reduced rate of youth violence, and a reduction in childhood poverty.

The after school time frame provides an opportunity for children and youth to develop and learn in a fun, safe, and secure environment to foster a positive environment, culturally diverse, and free from discrimination. Families can feel engaged, respected and involved; they should want to come to the program every day because they feel connected to the staff, programs, and their group in an atmosphere that builds self-esteem, resilience, and self-reliance.

The priority areas for the 2009-2010 pilot program have been identified to be Windsor West/Downtown and Leamington.

At the June 18, 2009 Board of Directors meeting, the Board considered the above information and approved the following resolution:

"WHEREAS child and youth supports are viewed as a primary prevention and basic health promotion; and

"WHEREAS the Health Unit is involved in the delivery of comprehensive school health and family health programming; and

"WHEREAS Health Unit has been identified as a major resource partner in the United Way catchment area;

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit fully endorse the United Way Windsor-Essex County's funding proposal to the Ministry of Health Promotion and that our agency will continue to partner as a resource and support to community agencies."

Letter to The Honourable Margaret Best
June 25, 2009
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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

G. Allen Heimann, MD, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health and Board Secretary

GAH:rs

cc: The Honourable Deborah Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services
The Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ms. Lynne Perreault, United Way
Ms. Ronna Warsh, City Social Services
Mayors and Council of all Windsor-Essex municipalities
Ontario Boards of Health

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