

2001 alPHa RESOLUTION NO. A01-2

TITLE: Provincial Accountability Framework and Mandatory Program Compliance/Funding

SPONSOR: Brant County Board of Health

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health Public Health Branch, in a letter from Dr. Colin D'Cunha of March 19, 2001, requested information on actual and projected compliance, expenditures and staffing for each of the Mandatory Programs for the period 1998-2002; and

WHEREAS this information was requested to provide a general picture of how boards of health are planning to achieve full compliance with the legislated public health programs and help the Branch respond to increasing requests for accountability and compliance data; and

WHEREAS the Branch has provided minimal directions on how this exercise is to be carried out in a methodologically sound and uniform manner across health units, and has not indicated how and why it will use these data for intra- and inter-health unit comparisons; and

WHEREAS the Branch is assuming that boards of health will be in full compliance with Mandatory Program requirements and standards by 2002, even though many boards of health there face numerous factors, at local, regional and provincial levels, that impede/preclude the attainment of full compliance (please see the Association of Local Public Health Agencies response to the proposed revisions to the Mandatory Programs); and

WHEREAS the Branch persists in attempting to "measure" Mandatory Program compliance with a tool, the Mandatory Programs Indicator Questionnaire (MPIQ), of questionable reliability and validity (although it acknowledges the need to "enhance the process of measuring results (including improvements to the MPIQ)); and

WHEREAS this request and process is linked to the provincial government Accountability Framework that has not been presented in any comprehensive manner to boards of health, such that structure, expectations and implications can be clearly understood, especially the possibility that continued non-compliance by boards of health with Mandatory Program requirements and standards could have negative impacts on provincial funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Health Branch assure that the provincial Accountability Framework, as it applies to the roles and functions of boards of health, is fully discussed with boards of health and health unit senior management, such that the purposes, structure and impacts of Framework are fully understood by these groups; and

AND FURTHER that no reduction of provincial funding result from non-compliance with Mandatory Program requirements and standards.

Status of Resolution:

Endorsed by the alPHa membership June 12, 2001