

December 17, 2008

Hon. David Caplan  
Minister of Health and Long-term Care  
80 Grosvenor St, 10th Flr, Hepburn Block  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Caplan:

**RE: KFL&A Public Health's Position Regarding Artificial Tanning**

The Board of Health for Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health, at its meeting of November 26, 2008, passed the following motion:

***THAT the KFL&A Board of Health support the Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario Division's Call for government action and join other professional bodies across Ontario such as the Canadian Dermatology Association and Cancer Care Ontario to encourage the development of strong and comprehensive legislation that will protect the public from the harmful effects of artificial tanning; and***

***THAT the Board of Health write to the Honourable David Caplan, expressing their support for these measures and his stand on this issue; and***

***THAT this recommendation be forwarded to local members of provincial parliament, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and other Ontario Boards of Health.***

Health Canada has developed "Guidelines for Tanning Salon Owners, Operators and Users"; however a recent study released by the Canadian Cancer Society shows that artificial tanning facilities in Toronto are not following Health Canada's voluntary safety guidelines. This clearly demonstrates that self regulation of the artificial tanning industry is not working.

Skin cancer, which is preventable, now accounts for one-third of all cancer diagnoses in Ontario. Skin cancer rates, including melanoma, continue to rise and pose a serious threat to the health of our public.

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## KINGSTON, FRONTENAC AND LENNOX & ADDINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Background information on this issue is attached for your reference.

The KFL&A Board of Health share the concern of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Cancer Society, that the use of tanning beds is on the rise, that tanning companies target youth, and this may be responsible for excess skin cancer rates in the future. We also appreciate your stand in supporting this initiative. The KFL&A Board of Health strongly recommends that regulations of such beds, such as the prohibition of the use of commercial tanning beds by those under the age of 18.

Thank you for your consideration of this extremely important health matter.

Yours truly,



Beth Pater, Chair  
KFL&A Board of Health

cc: Board of Health members  
Ms. Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Hon. John Gerretsen, MPP, Kingston and the Islands  
Randy Hillier, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington  
Boards of Health, Ontario Local Public Health Agencies