



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

**Service de
santé publique**

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February 27, 2004

Via Electronic Mail

The Honourable George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister:

RE: *Equitable Public Health Programs and Services in Ontario*

Please be advised that at its meeting of February 19, 2004, the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion, and is seeking your attention to this urgent matter:

WHEREAS Public Health Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (MHPSG) are set by the province; and

WHEREAS Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines represent the minimum requirements and are to be fully implemented; and

WHEREAS effective public health programs and services are now more critical than ever with an increasingly taxed acute and primary care sector and with emerging infectious diseases and urgent public health issues; and

WHEREAS recent national and provincial reports on the public health system have identified the urgent need for enhanced resources and capacity within the public health system; and

WHEREAS at this time of vulnerability for the public's health, significant and deep budgetary cuts are being experienced by the City of Ottawa-Public Health & Long Term Care Branch, and other health units are facing similar challenges to meeting minimum requirements; and

WHEREAS s. 72 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act indicates that municipalities under local boards of health are obligated to pay for the expenses incurred by boards of health in delivering the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines; and

WHEREAS there are varying levels of support from municipalities for health units in meeting the mandatory programs and consequently varying levels of public health programs and services for the residents of Ontario; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health write to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health and Long Term

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Care and Minister of Finance to request a significant increase in the provincial portion of board of health budgets in order to offset the expenses incurred by the municipalities in the provision of the Mandatory Health Programs and Services; and

FURTHERMORE THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health write to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) encouraging support for this motion; and

FURTHERMORE THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health write to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to urge increased monitoring of compliance to the Mandatory Programs and Services Guidelines (1997) and to implement appropriate strategies to ensure compliance with these minimum public health standards; and

FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of these letters be forwarded to our local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and all Ontario health units.

Thank you for your attention to and support for this important matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Penny Sutcliffe, M.D., M.H.Sc., F.R.C.P.C.
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

mt

c: Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Local MPP
Mike Brown, Local MPP
Hon. David Ramsay, Local MPP
Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health