

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Health Services Committee Members

FROM: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 6, 2010

RE: **Expansion of Public Health Dental Services to Low-Income Children**

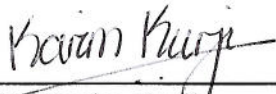
Attached is a memorandum from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care inviting health units to submit business cases for 100% provincial funding of an expanded Low-Income Dental Program. This program provides for expansion of current public health dental services to low-income children in three areas:

- Dental screening.
- Preventive dental services for low-income children.
- Administration of the Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) program for the treatment of urgent dental conditions in low-income children.

The program also makes it possible for health units to facilitate provision of early restorative dental treatment currently not covered under the CINOT program.

It is estimated that several additional staff will be required to implement the expanded program in York Region, and that the annual cost of Public Health service provision will be over \$2 million. This is subject to provincial approval and 100% provincial funding. The province will also provide health units with 100% one-time start-up funding, up to \$500,000, for development or expansion of the community's dental infrastructure.

The provincial deadline for submission of business case templates has been extended to January 29, 2010. It is proposed that the Medical Officer of Health submit a business case "subject to Board of Health approval" to meet this deadline. A subsequent report to Community and Health Services Committee will follow.



Dr. Karim Kurji
Medical Officer of Health

KK/nd

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Assistant Deputy Minister

Public Health Division

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October 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Medical Officers of Health
Associate Medical Officers of Health**RE: Low-Income Dental Program**

I am pleased to send you information on how your local public health unit can participate in the expanded Low-Income Dental Program. The government's 2007 platform and 2008 Budget included a commitment to provide access to dental services for low-income families. As part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the government has committed \$45 million a year for this program.

Phase I of the dental program strategy included the expansion of the Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program to include children up to the age of 18 years and was introduced January 2009.

Phase II of the strategy introduces a new dental program that will build upon and link with current investments, as well as expand access to services, starting with children and youth as the first priority.

Please be advised that funding is subject to successful completion of the attached business case template to support implementation of the Low-Income Dental Program. The Ministry will evaluate business cases from Public Health Units based on established criteria outlined in the Introductory Guide for Public Health Units, also attached.

You are encouraged to complete this template and submit a signed copy as soon as possible for start-up funding for the period up to March 31, 2010. Ongoing funding is described in the Guide. Business cases are to be submitted to the Public Health Planning & Implementation Branch at phdental@ontario.ca and must be received no later than November 30th, 2009.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment and support for a revitalized and effective public health system in Ontario.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison J. Stuart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Allison J. Stuart
Assistant Deputy Minister (A)

Attachment

- c: Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Elizabeth Walker, Director, Public Health Planning and Implementation Branch, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care
Penny Nelligan, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion
Dr. Sandy Bennett, Sr. Dental Consultant, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion
Erin Hannah, Director, Ontario Works Branch, Ministry of Community & Social Services
Marian Mlakar, Director, Children and Youth at Risk Branch, Ministry of Children & Youth Services