



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

**Service de
santé publique**

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November 5, 2004

Via Electronic Mail

The Honourable Marie Bountrogianni
Minister of Children and Youth Services
56 Wellesley Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Dr. Bountrogianni:

RE: Appropriate funding of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Please be advised that at its meeting of October 21, 2004, the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion #89-04, and is seeking your attention to this important matter:

WHEREAS the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is a prevention/early intervention initiative “designed to ensure that all Ontario families with children (prenatal to age six) who are at risk of physical, cognitive, communicative, and/or psychosocial problems have access to effective, consistent, early intervention services”; and

WHEREAS the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is a mandatory program for Boards of Health; and

WHEREAS in 1997 the province committed to funding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program at 100%; and

WHEREAS collective agreement settlements, travel costs, pay increments and accommodation costs have increased the costs of a program, the management and administration costs of which are already “subsidized” by the cost-shared budget for provincially mandated programs; and

WHEREAS alignment with the 2004-funding grant allocation will result in waiting lists and reduced services for high-risk families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sudbury & District Board of Health support the Thunder Bay District Board of Health and Region of Peel motions and advocate to the Minister of Children and Youth Services to fully fund all program costs related to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, including all staffing, operating and administrative costs; and

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and Ontario Boards of Health.

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The Sudbury & District Board of Health has previously expressed their concern surrounding the shortfalls in Healthy Babies Healthy Children funding and, as a result, passed a resolution at its May 23, 2001 meeting requesting that the Ministry's commitment be operationalized by adequately funding this program.

Thank you for your attention to this increasingly critical issue.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

mt

c: Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health