



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

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November 5, 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 Mr. Smitherman:

RE: Haines Report

At its October 21, 2004 meeting, the Sudbury & District Board of Health considered the recommendations in the recently released *Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario* and passed the following motion #88-04:

WHEREAS the Honourable Roland Haines in his report, "Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario", July 22, 2004, has recommended an increased role for public health in food safety; and

WHEREAS foodborne illness as demonstrated by the health unit's recent E. coli outbreak remains an important public health issue; and

WHEREAS local public health agencies are an integral component of Ontario's food safety system; and

WHEREAS a strong, effective and adequately resourced public health food inspection system is essential to food safety; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has yet to respond to the recommendations of Justice Haines' report;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health request that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care consult with local public health units to develop an action plan to implement Justice Haines' recommendations as they pertain to strengthening the roles of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and boards of health in the food safety system.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and for involving public health units in strengthening Ontario's food safety system.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

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

c: Dr. S. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Boards of Health

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