



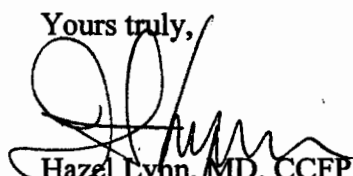
April 22, 2004

Ontario Boards of Health

Dear Board of Health Chair:

The Grey Bruce Health Unit, Board of Health requests that the Ontario Boards of Health endorse the attached letter to The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health.

Yours truly,


Hazel Lynn, MD, CCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/st

Attachment (1)

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April 22, 2004

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

Honourable Minister Smitherman:

The Grey Bruce Board of Health strongly protests the actions of the provincial government in the past two years regarding the funding of the WNV program and the enhanced infectious disease program known as SARS funding. We request that new programs that are provincially mandated should be 100% funded for at least the first 5 years until some evidence of the usefulness of the program for the municipality can be provided.

It is impossible to know in the first years of a new program what it will cost. In that short time frame, no evaluation of the program can be effectively done. The municipalities are thus downloaded with provincially ordered costs, which may be of very limited value to the municipalities.

The municipalities are required to return to the constituents if increased mid year funding is required after the budget approval. There is no way to balance the limited budgets if large expenditures are required by the province for mandatory programs and the funding is reduced to 50% shortly after the program is introduced. This is particularly true when the provincial decision to only pay half the cost is made mid year of the budget cycle.

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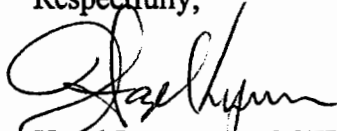
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This has lead to lack of co-operation between the board of health and the county councils and hard feelings between organizations that could and should be working together to provide the important health programs for our area.

Respectfully,



Hazel Lynn, MD, CCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health
HL/st

cc: Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Bill Murdoch, M.P.P., Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Carol Mitchell, M.P.P., Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, M.P.P., Simcoe-Grey
Ruth Lovell, Board Chair, Grey Bruce Health Unit
Bettyanne Cobean, Clerk-Treasurer, County of Bruce
Sharon Vokes, Clerk-Treasurer, Corporation of the County of Grey
Board Chairs, Ontario Boards of Health