



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

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April 16, 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: Support for Smoking Cessation Within Long-Term Care Facilities
and Rest and Retirement Homes**

Please be advised that at its meeting of April 15, 2004, the Sudbury & District Board of Health passed the following motion #44-04, and is seeking your attention to this important matter:

WHEREAS on April 17, 2002, the Sudbury & District Board of Health recommended that the City of Greater Sudbury implement a 100% smoke-free by-law, which prevents smoking in all public places and workplaces; and

WHEREAS on November 14, 2002, the City of Greater Sudbury Council unanimously passed a 100% smoke-free public places and workplaces by-law, effective May 31, 2003; and

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury Smoke Free Public Places and Workplaces By-law provided a one-year exemption to June 1, 2004 for all public places with approved Separately Ventilated Designated Smoking Rooms (SVDSRs); and

WHEREAS smoking-related health and safety concerns are widely recognized in the long-term care setting such that Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) and Rest and Retirement Homes have long been subject to additional policy and legislative restrictions prohibiting or restricting smoking; and

WHEREAS research indicates that SVDSRs are ineffective in removing health-harming toxins from second-hand smoke from the workplace air; and

WHEREAS the removal of SVDSRs within Long-term Care Facilities and Rest and Retirement Homes provides a healthy and safe environment, affording all workers within the City of Greater Sudbury the same level of protection; and

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WHEREAS staff from the Sudbury & District Health Unit has been working with interested LTCFs since fall 2002 to assist them in their preparation for the June 1, 2004 deadline; and

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Health Unit recognizes that tobacco addiction is a chronic relapsing disorder that requires ongoing cessation efforts and supports; and

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Health Unit recognizes that there are barriers to accessing effective smoking cessation treatment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sudbury & District Board of Health directs the Medical Officer of Health to enhance the health unit's smoking cessation programming with Long-Term Care Facilities and Rest and Retirement Homes; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health advocates to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for accessible, effective smoking cessation treatment for residents of Long-Term Care Facilities and Rest and Retirement Homes; and

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to mayor and council of the City of Greater Sudbury.

As you will appreciate, the potential province-wide legislation restricting smoking in all workplaces and public places will significantly increase the need for accessible, effective smoking cessation programs. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

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

mt

c: Ontario Boards of Health