

ALPHA RESOLUTION A08-6

TITLE: **Advocacy to Reduce the Legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) from 0.08 % to 0.05 %**

SPONSOR: **Middlesex-London Board of Health**

WHEREAS In 1970 Parliament established the 0.08% blood alcohol concentration (BAC) threshold based on studies that underestimated the relative risks of fatal crashes at lower BAC levels; and

WHEREAS Impaired driving remains Canada's single largest criminal cause of death, claiming more than twice as many lives per year as all types of homicide combined; and

WHEREAS Laboratory driving simulator and closed-access roadway studies over the last 50 years have established that even small amounts of alcohol adversely affect driving skills and performance; and

WHEREAS Leading medical, injury prevention, and traffic safety organizations around the world support a BAC driving limit at or below 0.05%. These include: the World, American, British, and Canadian Medical Associations, the World Health Organization; the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine; the International Transportation Safety Association; the European Transport Safety Council; the Royal Society for Prevention of accidents; the Australian transport Safety Bureau; the Canadian Public Health Association; and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; and

WHEREAS Public support for a lower Criminal Code limit continues to increase across gender, age and geographical regions of Canada; and

WHEREAS The proposed 0.05% law is designed to maximize the deterrent impact of the law, minimize the administrative burden on the criminal justice system, and appropriately sanction offenders;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies petition the Ontario government to reduce the legal BAC from 0.08% to 0.05%.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Moved: D. McKeown (Toronto)

Seconded: R. Kyle (Durham)

Resolution CARRIED