October 6, 2016

Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
ehoskins.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Dear Minister Hoskins:

At the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, a motion was passed to endorse the resolution shared by Algoma Public Health regarding “Changes to the HPV Immunization Programs”. As this resolution clearly articulates, while expansion of public health delivery of expanded immunizations is a positive move for public health, the funding model for these expanded programs is inadequate. We, therefore join the Board of Algoma Public Health in urging the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to increase the annual funding for the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program to levels necessary to meet the mandate.

Public Health is the most appropriate agency to deliver vaccination programs to school-aged children. The expansion of the publicly funded human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program to boys in grade 7 will see a potential 154,000 additional students in Ontario receiving the benefits of this vaccine. The current model of funding for this program however, at $8.50 per dose, does not reflect the real cost of programs delivery. Calculations based on experience at Peterborough Public Health is that the real cost of supplies, needle disposal, nursing and clerical staff time are approximately $14.25 per dose. We are concerned that as the immunization programs expand, it will inevitably lead to the erosion of other important public health programs.

The Board of Health commends the MOHLTC for its commitment to effective immunization programs and the recognition for the role of Public Health in delivering it to students across the province. Please take the proposed actions to ensure adequate funding for full delivery. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in health,

Original signed by

Scott McDonald
Chair, Board of Health

/ag
Encl.
cc: Hon. Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC
    Roselle Martino, Executive Director, MOHLTC
    Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
    Jeff Leal, MPP, Peterborough
    Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
    Association of Local Public Health Agencies
    Ontario Boards of Health
May 31, 2016

The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, On M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

RE: Changes to the HPV Immunization Progra.

At its meeting on May 25, 2016, The Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit carried the following resolution #2016-50.

WHEREAS Ontario is expanding the publicly funded human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program to include boys in Grade 7; and

WHEREAS Algoma Public Health supports the immunization of boys to help prevent the spread of HPV and prevent cancer; and

WHEREAS the HPV vaccine will continue to be provided to girls in Grade 8 for the transition year until all grade 7 students receive the vaccination; and

WHEREAS the Ministry estimates about 154,000 students will be eligible to receive the vaccine each year; and

WHEREAS APH, similar to other PHUs, plans to deliver the vaccination program over the course of three school visits in order to avoid giving more than two doses of vaccine per student per visit, which will increase the number of school clinics by approximately 33% (previously two visits per year); and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s (MOHLTC) Immunization 2020 Strategy strives to "reduce health risks related to vaccine-preventable diseases in the province"; and

WHEREAS the MOHLTC has not increased funding to the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) program despite adding responsibilities and new vaccines to the program.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health commends the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for its commitment to expand its HPV vaccination program to young males who are starting grade 7 this September; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health urges the MOHLTC to consider increasing the annual funding for the VPD program in order to provide the staff resources to meet the above mandate.

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Medical Officers of Health, and Ontario Boards of Health, and member municipalities.

Sincerely,

Lee Mason
Board of Health Chair

cc: The Honourable Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
The Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Ontario Boards of Health
Member municipalities.