January 18, 2017

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister – Minister's Office
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

At the January 18, 2017 meeting of the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 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 models 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 their growing mandate.

In recent years public health vaccination programming in Ontario has experienced continual, positive changes in an effort to not only expand the vaccines that are provided to the public, but also to improve systems of record keeping, communication, and immunization compliance. In the past two years alone we have seen the implementation of broader legislation, a new innovative database for vaccine inventory management, the arrival of two new publicly funded vaccines, and the enhancement of the HPV vaccine for boys in Grade 7 and high risk men between the ages of 9-26, the subject of the Algoma resolution.

These changes are commendable. However, unfortunately, the funding we receive at $8.50 per dose for HPV vaccination does not reflect the real costs of program delivery. In 2010 the cost per vaccination has been estimated to be between $21.54 and $28.68, depending on the location and number of students attending the school clinic. Therefore the Board of Health requests an enhancement in the funding provided for public health vaccination programming to adequately support this very important and effective disease prevention strategy.
The Board of Health commends you for your commitment to effective immunization programs and your recognition for the role of local public health in delivering these programs across the province.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Scott Warnock
Chair, Board of Health

SW:CG:mk

c. Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
   Linda Stewart, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
   Ontario Boards of Health
   Ann Hoggarth, MPP
   Norm Miller, MPP
   Patrick Brown, MPP
   Jim Wilson, MPP
   Julia Munro, MPP
   NSM LHIN
   Central LHIN