June 5, 2017

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

Dear Minister Hoskins:

Re: Requesting Support for Enactment of Legislation under the HPPA to Allow for the Inspection and Enforcement Activities of Personal Service Settings

On May 10th, 2017, at a regular meeting of the Board of Health at Elgin St. Thomas Public Health, a letter was brought forward from Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health asking provincial health units to support enactment of legislation under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to allow for inspection of, and enforcement activities in, personal service settings. According to the letter, six provinces and territories currently have specific legislation for the regulation of personal service settings which greatly increases the effectiveness of their public health interventions. The Elgin St. Thomas Board of Health supports the position of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health recommending enactment of legislation that increases the enforcement abilities of public health staff and provides incentives for operators to comply with infection prevention and control best practices.

While education is considered an essential and first step in gaining operator compliance, experience has shown that enforcement activities are, at times, the only means of gaining compliance with minimum requirements in order to ensure public safety. In those provinces or territories where regulations exist for personal service settings, no-compliance with the regulations can result in a conviction and/or strict monetary fines, without requiring public health staff to prove the existence of a health hazard. This approach is similar to that used by public health when inspecting and enforcing food premises.

This proposed legislation presents a chance for health units to achieve the goal of reducing the burden of infectious diseases of public health importance.

Thank you,

Dr. Joyce Lock, MD, CCFP (EM), FRCP(C)  
Medical Officer of Health

Cynthia St. John, MBA  
Executive Director

c. Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London  
Ontario Boards of Health