June 4, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Endorsement of the Children Count Task Force Recommendations

On May 24, 2019 at a regular meeting of the Board for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered the attached motion from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Board of Health endorsing the Children Count Task Force Recommendations. The following motion was passed:

GBHU BOH Motion 2019-32

Moved by: Laurie Laporte Seconded by: Brian Milne
“THAT, the Board of Health support the correspondence from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health endorsing the Children Count Task Force Recommendations.”

Carried

Sincerely,

Mitch Twolan
Chair, Board of Health
Grey Bruce Health Unit

Encl.

Cc: The Honourable Christine Elliot, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education, MPP Huron-Bruce
The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
Larry Miller, MP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Kellie Leitch, MP Simcoe-Grey
Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce
Bill Walker, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Health Units
April 25, 2019

VIA: Electronic Mail (doug.ford@pc.ola.org)

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Endorsement of the Children Count Task Force Recommendations

The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Board of Health passed the following motion at its April 24, 2019 meeting:

That the KFL&A Board of Health endorse the Children Count Task Force Recommendations and send correspondence to:

1) The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
2) The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier
3) The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
4) The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues
5) Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
6) Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
7) Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
8) Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
9) Ontario Boards of Health

At present, there are approximately 50 federal programs collecting health data on the Canadian population, many of which include school age children and youth. Notwithstanding the number of sources, data collected from these surveys are not always collected in a way that provides representative results at the regional and local levels. As such, Ontario needs a coordinated and cost-effective system for measuring the health and well-being of children and youth to inform local, regional and provincial programming. Such a system will enable stakeholders at all levels (local, regional and provincial) to effectively measure the health and well-being of our kids, and in turn, the return on investment in relevant programs.

To address this gap, the Children Count Task Force has made one overarching recommendation, which is to create a secretariat responsible for overseeing the implementation of the systems, tools, and resources required to improve the surveillance of child and youth health and well-being in Ontario. To further support this secretariat, the task force made an additional five recommendations:
• **Recommendation 1**: Create an interactive web-based registry of database profiles resulting from child and youth health and well-being data collection in Ontario schools.

• **Recommendation 2**: Mandate the use of a standardized School Climate Survey template in Ontario schools and a coordinated survey implementation process across Ontario.

• **Recommendation 3**: Develop and formalize knowledge exchange practice through the use of centrally coordinated data sharing agreements.

• **Recommendation 4**: Develop and implement a centralized research ethics review process to support research activities in Ontario school boards.

• **Recommendation 5**: Work with the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of Ontario to develop a guideline for the interpretation of privacy legislation related to student health and well-being data collection in schools.

The KFL&A Board of Health urges the Government of Ontario to act on the recommendations from the Children Count Task Force.

Yours truly,

Denis Doyle, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

Copy to: The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and
  Minister Responsible for Women’s Issues
Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health