October 28, 2013

VIA EMAIL

Mayors/Reeves
Constituent Municipalities within the
Sudbury & District Health Unit Catchment Area

Dear Mayor/Reeve:

Re: Transportation and Public Health

At its meeting on October 17, 2013, the Sudbury & District Board of Health unanimously passed the following motion #47-13 Transportation and Public Health:

WHEREAS transportation policies and planning decisions affect many factors important to health such as air quality, physical activity opportunities, and safety; and

WHEREAS multi-modal transportation systems (i.e. walking, cycling, public transit, car, etc.) improve access, particularly for vulnerable and low income people, to important health determinants such as food, employment, education, health and social programs, and cultural and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS research demonstrates that people living in walkable and bikeable neighbourhoods have better health outcomes overall than people living in car-oriented communities; and

WHEREAS Sudbury & District Board of Health motions #19-06, #36-07, #19-11, #29-11 and #45-12 demonstrate the Board’s strong track record of endorsing policies and programs that create environments supportive of physical activity and health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health strongly encourage all municipalities within the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts to commit to and appropriately resource a transportation system vision that enhances equity and choice, and opportunities for safe, connected multi modal travel ; and

FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to key provincial, and local health and non-health partners.
Planning and resourcing a multi-modal transportation system offers users diverse transport options that are effectively integrated, in order to provide a high degree of accessibility even for non-drivers. It is the Sudbury & District Board of Health’s hope that this motion will impact the transportation decisions you make as community leaders. I am confident that together, we can ensure that planning for a healthier tomorrow is achieved by making a difference today.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

cc: Honorable Glen Murray, Minister of Transportation
    Rick Bartolucci, MPP Sudbury
    France Gelinas, MPP Nickel Belt
    Michael Mantha, MPP Algoma-Manitoulin
    John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming-Cochrane
    Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
    Ontario Boards of Health
    Louise Paquette, Chief Executive Director, North East Local Health Integration Network
    Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
    Pat Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
    Alan Spacek, President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
    Naomi Grant, Chair, Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury
    Deb McIntosh, Rainbow Routes Association