

alPHa's members are
the 36 public health
units in Ontario.

alPHa Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
Organizations:**

ANDSOOHA - Public
Health Nursing
Management

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Society of
Nutrition Professionals
in Public Health

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17/10/2013

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Flr, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor St
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews,

Re. alPHa Support for Bill 30, Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds)

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), I am writing today to congratulate you and your colleagues in the Ontario Legislature for the unanimous passage of Bill 30, the *Skin Cancer Prevention Act*.

In 2006, alPHa passed the attached resolution (A06-3), which outlined the elements of legislation that we believe should be in place to protect Ontarians from a known and serious health risk. We are very pleased to see that the Act includes the prohibition on the use of tanning services for children under 18, and that it enables regulations that can and should be used to cover the other elements.

The Chronic Disease Prevention program standards that Ontario's Public Health Units are obliged to meet specifically mention exposure to ultraviolet radiation as an important area of concentration for health promotion and protection activities, alongside similar risks such as tobacco and alcohol. This legislation will greatly enhance and support our efforts in that regard with enforceable standards.

The primary goal of Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care is keeping people healthy, and cancer is identified as one of the preventable illnesses that are responsible for 25% of our health care costs. The Plan reiterates the importance of being relentless in maintaining efforts to fight cancer, and this legislation will certainly contribute to those efforts through prevention.

As this act assigns monitoring of tanning facilities and enforcement of the Act to Ontario's public health units, we expect that our members will be engaged in developing the content of the supporting regulations. We look forward to participating in the upcoming consultation to ensure that the strong protections recommended by the World Health Organization and reproduced in our Resolution are implemented.

Once again, congratulations on the passage of the Skin Cancer Prevention Act. We are pleased to have another tool at our disposal as we continue our work toward reducing the burden of preventable chronic disease in Ontario.

Yours truly,



Mary Johnson,
alPHa President

Copy: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health; Kate Manson-Smith, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care (Health Promotion Division); Christine Elliott, Health Critic, Progressive Conservative Party; France G elinas, Health Critic, New Democratic Party

Encl.



alPHa Resolution A06-3

TITLE: Health-Based Regulation of the Management and Use of Artificial Tanning Equipment

SPONSOR: alPHa Board of Directors.

WHEREAS The World Health Organization's 2003 report, Artificial Tanning Sunbeds: Risks and Guidance concludes that Ultraviolet (UV) light from artificial tanning equipment is a probable human carcinogen linked to eye damage and increased risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers; and

WHEREAS at present, the only regulation of tanning salons in Ontario is through the Federal government's Radiation Emitting Devices Act, which is limited in scope to the manufacturing, importing and sale/resale of artificial tanning equipment; and

WHEREAS tanning salon operators are known to make marketing claims that include the suggestion that artificial tanning is a "safe" method by which to tan and meet Vitamin D requirements; and

WHEREAS skin cancer is the most common type of cancer of Ontario; and

WHEREAS no legislation in Ontario currently exists that regulates the use of such equipment based on known health risks

THEREFORE BE IT RESLOVED THAT the Government of Ontario pass and promote legislation governing the use of artificial tanning equipment based on the above-named WHO Report's Recommendations for the Management of Sunbed Operations, that includes

- regulation of the safety claims permitted by tanning salon owners and operators
- training requirements for operators of artificial tanning equipment
- a ban on the use of artificial tanning for those under 18, subject to the advice of a regulated health professional
- the formulation of enforceable safe operating standards for the tanning industry, including, maximum exposure times and warnings to consumers related to the use of UV-emitting tanning equipment