January 29, 2015

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Championing Healthy Public Policy to Address the Chronic Disease Burden - Item HL1.6

On January 19, 2015 the Toronto Board of Health adopted this item, and among other things, forwards the report (December 23, 2014) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Ontario Public Health Association, Ontario Society for Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, Ontario Medical Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

The Board of Health also:

1. Commended the Premier of Ontario and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for introducing legislation on indoor tanning, smoking restrictions, e-cigarettes and menu labelling in Ontario;

2. Requested the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to further strengthen the Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2006 to prohibit smoking on all hospital grounds in Ontario; and

3. Requested the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure that resources are allocated to local public health agencies to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the amended Smoke Free Ontario Act 2006 and the Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2014.

4. Requested that the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, through the Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2014:

   a. Mandate the posting of sodium as well as calorie values;
   b. Apply the legislation to the diverse range of large food service chains with ten or more locations nationwide that prepare and sell ready-to-eat foods, according to standardized recipes, including: quick- and full-service restaurants, drive-thrus, buffet restaurants, cafeterias, grocery and convenience stores, theatres, and food trucks;
   c. Dedicate resources toward evaluating the implementation and impact of the menu labelling legislation across the province, including restaurant compliance, consumer awareness, understanding and use of the nutrition information provided, consumers' compensatory behaviour after eating out at a restaurant that has menu labelling, restaurants sales, and changes to the nutrient profile of chain restaurant menu items;
d. Ensure adequate funding is allocated to Boards of Health to enforce the menu labelling legislation; and

e. Dedicate resources towards educating the public on how to use menu labelling information, and consider adopting or adapting Toronto Public Health's "Savvy Diner" campaign.

To view this item and background information online, please visit:


Sincerely,

Nancy Martins

Secretary
Board of Health
Nancy Martins

Sent to: Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Society for Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
Ontario Medical Association
The Association of Local Public Health Agencies

c Toronto Medical Officer of Health