May 1, 2017

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

Dear Minister Hoskins,

At its meeting held on April 21, 2017, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit passed the attached resolutions regarding the following:

- Ontario Public Health Standards Modernization
- Low-Income Dental Program for Adults and Seniors

Thank you for your attention to these important public health issues.

Yours very truly,

Donald W West BMath, CPA, CA
Chief Administrative Officer

DW:mc
R-2017 - 20

MOVED BY: Michael Shea
SECONDED BY: Rick Lafleur

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit appreciates the work of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in the development of the Modernized Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit appreciates the opportunity for Porcupine Health Unit staff to provide feedback at the regional consultation in Sudbury on March 27, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit recognizes the strengths in the increased flexibility to address local priorities, address health equity and further engage with indigenous partners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit is concerned about the potential for increased equity gaps and significant strain on staff resources to ensure local needs are met in communities where there may be a lack of partners to collaborate with; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit is concerned about capacity with limited funds under the current funding formula;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit endorses the letter provided by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHA) dated March 17, 2017 regarding Public Health Programs and Services Consultation; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Boards of Health, and Gilles Bisson, MPP, Timmins - James Bay.

(circle as appropriate)

CARRIED

DEFEATED

Chair - Board of Health
R-2017 - 21

MOVED BY: Veronica Farrell
SECONDED BY: Drago Stefanic

WHEREAS the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit recognizes the importance of oral health in the overall health and well-being of the population; and

WHEREAS the lack of access to dental care leads to increased use of acute health care services and negatively impacts individual patients. Pain, low self-esteem, potentially unnecessary antibiotic treatment with side effect risks; and infections that may be serious and progress rapidly are all complications of a lack of dental care; and

WHEREAS the need to access acute health care services is extremely costly to the Ontario health care system. Over 60,000 visits to emergency departments across Ontario in 2015 were due to oral health concerns (Ontario Oral Health Alliance, 2017); and

WHEREAS the majority of these acute dental complications are avoidable with timely and appropriate dental care; and

WHEREAS financial barriers prevent many marginalized and low-income adults from accessing preventive and acute dental care; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) has promised to expand the oral health program to include low-income adults in 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) request the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) to address this important public health issue and urgently implement an expanded public dental program for low income adults and seniors, before the proposed 2025 timeline; and

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

(circle as appropriate)

CARRIED DEFEATED

Chair - Board of Health