

TITLE: No-Fault Compensation for Adverse Effects Following Immunization (AEFI)

SPONSOR: Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington Public Health

WHEREAS routine immunization programmes are a significant part of public health practice and an important tool to protect the health of the public from the incidence and severity of vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS serious adverse events following immunizations are much less likely to occur than similar adverse events following infection with vaccine preventable diseases, but will rarely occur after approximately 1 in 1,000,000 immunizations; and

WHEREAS in Canada, few individuals will bear the burden of serious adverse events for the communal benefit of the population; and

WHEREAS serious adverse events occur in spite of best practices being followed by health care providers and vaccine manufacturers; and

WHEREAS the Canadian legal system lacks an appropriate mechanism to provide individuals with compensation and this does not meet the ethical principle of reciprocity; and

WHEREAS no-fault compensation programs are increasingly regarded as a component of a successful vaccination program as an expression of community solidarity in which members of a community do not bear the risks of vaccination alone; and

WHEREAS Canada stands alone among the G7 countries as the only jurisdiction without a national publicly administered no-fault vaccine compensation program; and

WHEREAS Quebec is the only province or territory in Canada that has no-fault compensation for AEFIs; and

WHEREAS providing access to a fair reasonable process for compensation of serious adverse events weakens the argument against vaccination; and

WHEREAS no-fault compensation programs can quickly, effectively, and consistently make awards that are proportional to the serious adverse event;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) call upon the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to institute a program of no-fault compensation for adverse outcomes following immunization;

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) call upon the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to call upon their

counterparts across Canada as well as their Federal counterparts to institute a National system of no-fault compensation for adverse outcomes following immunization;

AND FURTHER that the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, as well as the provincial, territorial, and federal Ministers of Health and Chief Medical Officers of Health be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Carried