

alPHa RESOLUTION A15-4

TITLE: **Public Health Support for a Basic Income Guarantee** SPONSOR: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit low income, and high income inequality, have well-established, strong relationships with a **WHEREAS** range of adverse health outcomes; and WHEREAS 1,745,900 Ontarians, or 13.9% of the population, live in low income according to the 2011 National Household Survey after-tax low-income measure; and **WHEREAS** income inequality continues to increase in Ontario and Canada; and current income security programs by provincial and federal governments have not proved **WHEREAS** sufficient to ensure adequate, secure income for all; and **WHEREAS** a basic income guarantee – a cash transfer from government to citizens not tied to labour market participation - ensures everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live with dignity, regardless of work status; and **WHEREAS** basic income resembles income guarantees currently provided in Canada for seniors and children, which have contributed to health improvements in those age groups; and **WHEREAS** there was an encouraging pilot project of basic income for working age adults conducted jointly by the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada in Dauphin, Manitoba in the 1970s, which demonstrated several improved health and educational outcomes: and **WHEREAS** a basic income guarantee can reduce poverty and income insecurity, and enable people to pursue educational, occupational, social and health opportunities relevant to them and their family; and **WHEREAS** the idea of a basic income guarantee has garnered expressions of support from the Canadian Medical Association and the Alberta Public Health Association as a means of improving health and food security for low income Canadians; and **WHEREAS** there is momentum growing across Canada from various sectors and political backgrounds

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) endorse the concept of a basic income guarantee;

for a basic income guarantee;

Continued

AND FURTHER that alPHa request that the federal Ministers of Employment and Social Development, Labour, and Health, as well as the Ontario Ministers Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Seniors, Labour, Children and Youth Services, and Health and Long-Term Care, prioritize joint federal-provincial consideration and investigation into a basic income guarantee, as a policy option for reducing poverty and income insecurity and for providing opportunities for those in low income;

AND FURTHER that the Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Public Health Officer, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED