November 13, 2014

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

Dear Hon. Minister Hoskins:

To ensure equitable access for all children within the District of Algoma, the Board of Health has passed the attached resolution that recommends the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care considers maintaining preventive oral health services within the Ontario Public Health Standards.

If preventive services are removed from the Ontario Public Health Standards, it is estimated that 843 children in the Algoma District will no longer qualify for these services. The Board of Health urges the province to take positive action to meet the needs of our population with respect to these crucial services.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberley Barker, MD CCFP MPH FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Attachment

KB/cl
DATE: October 15, 2014

MOVED: Tom Farquhar

SECONDED: Janet Blake

Re: Maintaining Preventive Dental Services and Urgent Care Programs in the Ontario Public Health Standards

WHEREAS in August 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will integrate six publicly funded dental programs into one common program. This new program will have a family financial means test to determine eligibility; it will no longer consider oral health needs; and

WHEREAS under the new program the Preventive Oral Health Services and the Children in Need of Treatment Standard will be removed from the Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008; and

WHEREAS the current programs Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT), CINOT Expansion and Preventive Services considers dental need and financial hardship; and

WHEREAS Children that do not meet the financial eligibility will no longer qualify to receive preventive services, resulting in the exclusion of approximately 843 children in the Algoma District; and

WHEREAS the impact may cause a financial hardship for low income families in our area who may no longer qualify for dental services and will have to pay out of pocket for these services. This will create barriers and health inequities for the children of Algoma; and

WHEREAS children with unmet dental needs will be at risk of falling into system gaps, which can lead to more extensive and costly dental treatment and put children’s overall health at risk; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current eligibility for preventive dental services under the Ontario Public Health Standards and access to one full course of treatment for children with urgent dental needs be maintained in order to ensure equitable access to preventive oral health services for all children;

FURTHERMORE THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, local municipalities and all Ontario Boards of Health.

CARRIED: Chair’s Signature

Chair: Marchy Bruni
Vice-chair: Janet Blake

Robert Ambeault
Carmen Bondy
John Currie
Brenda Davies
Tom Farquhar
Debbie Kirby
Karen Marinich
Gordon Post
Ron Rody