December 7, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON  M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Support for Provincial Oral Health Program for Low Income Adults and Seniors

I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts to share our sincere appreciation for the provincial government’s support of a provincial oral health program for low-income seniors. This is a welcome addition to oral health programs already available for children and youth in low-income families through Healthy Smiles Ontario.

The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts has a keen interest in oral health. In reviewing our 2018 data on oral health, we identified that to further support oral health for all Ontarians, programs are needed for low-income adults, in addition to those in place or planned for children, youth and seniors.

At its meeting on November 22, 2018, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #42-18:
WHEREAS as compared with other provinces, Ontario has the lowest rate of public funding for dental care, as a percentage of all dental care expenditures and the lowest per capita public sector spending on dental services, resulting in precarious access to dental preventive and treatment services, especially for low-income Ontarians; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Progressive Conservative party pledged to implement a comprehensive dental care program that provides low income seniors with quality care by increasing the funding for dental services in Public Health Units, Community Health Centres, and Aboriginal Health Access Centres and by investing in a new dental services in underserviced areas including increasing the capacity in public health units and investing in mobile dental buses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts fully support the Premier’s plan to invest in oral health programs for low income seniors and further encourage the government to expand access to include low income adults; and

FURTHER that this motion be shared with area municipalities and relevant dental and health sector partners, all Ontario Boards of Health, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and local MPPs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward hearing more about the role public health can take in support of a new oral health program for low income adults and seniors that is cost effective and accessible.

Sincerely,

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honorable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
    Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
    Mr. Jamie West, MPP, Sudbury
    Ms. France Gelinas, MPP, Nickel Belt
    Mr. Michael Mantha, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin
    All Ontario Boards of Health
    Constituent Municipalities within Public Health Sudbury & Districts
    Ms. Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
    Association of Municipalities of Ontario
    Dr. David Diamond, President, Sudbury & District Dental Society
    Dr. Tyler McNicholl, vice-president, Sudbury & District Dental Society
    Ms. Jacquie Maund, Alliance for Healthier Communities