

September 19, 2012

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: Harmful Effects of Artificial Tanning

The Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit wishes to commend you for your announcement on September 14, 2012 to support a private members bill, Bill 74, Skin Cancer Prevention Act, 2012 to prohibit selling or supplying tanning services or ultra-violet light treatment services to persons under the age of 18 in Ontario to protect them from skin cancer. The Board of Health supports this important legislation and encourages you to enact Bill 74 without delay.

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Ontario, accounting for one-third of all new cancer diagnoses. Exposure to ultra-violet radiation (UVR) from artificial tanning beds increases the risk of melanoma, especially when exposure is started during childhood and adolescence. Approximately 32,000 females and 18,000 males in Grades 7 to 12 in Ontario have used artificial tanning equipment. (Canadian Cancer Society, 2007). By enacting Bill 74, Ontario will be joining leaders like Nova Scotia and British Columbia in protecting youth from the harmful effects of UV radiation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Barry Ward
Board of Health Chair

BW:CB:mk

- c. Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
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