

April 22, 2013

Right Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

***RE: Support for Bill 30 – An Act to Regulate the Selling and Marketing of Tanning Services and Ultraviolet Light Treatments***

Dear Right Honourable Premier Wynne;

The Middlesex-London Board of Health wishes to commend you on your announcement March 7, 2013 introducing Bill 30, *An Act to Regulate the Selling and Marketing of Tanning Services and Ultraviolet Light Treatments*. This comprehensive legislation will help protect youth from skin cancer by primarily banning access and use of tanning beds by those under the age of 18 years.

In July 2009, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from tanning beds as a Group 1 Carcinogen - "carcinogenic in humans". Skin cancer accounts for approximately one-third of all cancers diagnosed in Ontario, and this cancer was estimated to result in an economic burden of more than \$344 million in 2011.

Melanoma skin cancer, the most deadly form of skin cancer, is one of the most common cancers in young Ontarians aged 15-29 years and is largely preventable.

There is significant public support for Ontario legislation with regard to tanning beds. An Ipsos Reid poll commissioned by the Canadian Cancer Society in June 2011 showed that:

- 83% of Ontarians support a ban on indoor tanning by youth under 18 years;
- 77% said youth should be prevented from using tanning beds;
- 73% of Ontarians polled said the tanning industry cannot be trusted to regulate itself and government legislation is needed; and
- 80% of Ontarians support legislation to regulate the tanning industry.

Studies show that using artificial tanning equipment before the age of 35 raises the risk of melanoma by 75%. Since most people receive 80% of their lifetime exposure to ultraviolet radiation by the age of 18, it is crucial that the use of indoor tanning equipment by youth be reduced and eliminated if possible.

..2

The Middlesex-London Board of Health supports this important legislation, commends you for introducing it, and encourages you to enact Bill 30 without delay. Ontario will then join leaders in Canada like Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Quebec in protecting youth from the harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation, including skin cancer.

Sincerely,



Bryna Warshawsky, MDCM, CCFP, FRCPC  
Secretary-Treasurer, Middlesex-London Board of Health

cc:

Mr. Wally Adams, Director, Environmental Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Services  
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Ms. Siu Mee Cheng, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association  
Mr. Gordon Fleming, Manager, Public Health Issues, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong, MPP London-Fanshawe  
Mr. Chris Bentley, MPP London West  
Mr. Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex  
Mr. Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London