

June 20, 2013

Honourable Minister Deb Matthews  
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

***RE: Ministry Funding for Public Health Units for Nicotine Replacement Therapy***

Dear Honourable Minister Matthews,

The Middlesex-London Board of Health wishes to commend the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Government of Ontario for its ongoing commitment to a Smoke-Free Ontario. At its June 20, 2013 meeting Report No. 081-13 re **Increased Access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Through Public Health Units** was considered and it was moved:

1. *That the Board of Health endorse report No. 081-13 re: “Increased Access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Through Public Health Units”; and,*
2. *That the Board of Health send a letter, attached as Appendix A, to the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long Term Care and local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) to commend the Ontario Government for their ongoing commitment to a Smoke-Free Ontario and to request funding to support free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) within smoking cessation programs offered by Boards of Health.*

A copy of Report No. 081-13 has been attached for your information.

Ministry funding for public health units to support the purchase and provision of free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) within smoking cessation programs would enable the Health Unit to target and tailor cessation services to meet the needs of hard to reach, priority populations within the Middlesex-London community. Including public health units in the provision of funding for free NRT on an ongoing basis, like Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres and Aboriginal Health Access Centres, could help close cessation service delivery gaps that currently exist.

In order to make significant changes to the number of individuals smoking in Ontario, a comprehensive tobacco control strategy that includes a cessation support system that encompasses the “no wrong door” approach and facilitates access to cessation services is required. The Middlesex-London Board of Health looks forward to continuing to work with you to achieve the lowest smoking rates in Canada.

Sincerely,

Christopher Mackie  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Middlesex-London Board of Health