

November 21, 2013

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

RE: Bill 131 Youth Smoking Prevention Act

Dear Premier Wynne;

The Middlesex-London Board of Health wishes to commend you and the Ontario Government for your ongoing commitment to comprehensive tobacco control through the implementation of the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy. It is through this commitment that public health units have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with local and provincial public health and tobacco control stakeholders to implement initiatives that help prevent tobacco use initiation, support people trying to quit and protect people from the harmful effects of exposure to second-hand smoke.

At its November 21, 2013 meeting, Report No.129-13 re Proposed Amendments to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* was considered and it was moved **that the Board of Health:**

- 1) Endorse Report No. 129-13 re Proposed Amendments to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, and**
- 2) Send a letter, attached as Appendix A, to the Right Honourable Premier Kathleen Wynne, the Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, and local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) urging them to pass the legislation swiftly.**

A copy of Report No.129-13 has been attached for your information.

There is growing public support across Ontario for outdoor smoke-free policies; over 60 municipalities, including the City of London are leading the way by enacting their own outdoor smoke-free bylaws and policies. Provincial legislation is required to ensure consistent protection from social exposure to smoking and second-hand smoke.

Bill 131 proposes tougher measures to reduce youth access to tobacco products; these decisive and strict measures are required to prevent initiation of tobacco use by young people. For Ontario to achieve the Government's target of the lowest smoking rate in Canada, continued investment in the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy and swift passage of Bill 131, the *Youth Smoking Prevention Act* is required. The Middlesex-London Board of Health looks forward to continuing its work with you.

Sincerely,

Marcel Meyer
Chair
Middlesex-London Board of Health