



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

DATE: 2016 April 21

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY RESOLUTION

It is recommended that the Board of Health

- 1. Receive report No.023-16 re: Association of Local Public Health Agency (alPHa); and*
- 2. Submit the attached resolutions to go forward to the alPHa Annual General meeting in June 2016.*

Key Points

- Intake of sugar sweetened beverages has been linked to obesity and several other health conditions.
- Sugar sweetened beverages are energy dense; contain little or no nutrient value and high in sugar.
- On March 10th, the Board of Health endorsed the Health and Stroke Foundation Sugar, Health Disease and Stroke Position Statement.
- The Association of Local Public Health Agencies is an important ally to help move issues forward and advocate on behalf of local public health.

Background

On March 10th, 2016 at the Board of Health meeting the Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF) presented evidence indicating that there is a growing body of credible research indicating an increased incidence of health risks associated with the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages (SSB). The consumption of SSB has been linked to obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dental caries, dyslipidemia and metabolic syndrome. As well the Senate Report on Obesity released in March 2016 identifies 21 recommendations to combat this growing epidemic. The recommendations include further taxation on SSB with additional tax revenue being put toward subsidies for healthy options such as fruits and vegetables.

Opportunities for Action

At the March meeting, the Board of Health endorsed the HSF position paper, directed staff to work with municipalities on this issue, and also identified the opportunity to bring a motion forward to the Association for Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa). The annual meeting for alPHa is in June, and the deadline for Boards of Health to submit resolutions is in April. Once a resolution is passed alPHa with sponsoring agency will move issue forward and advocate on behalf of stakeholders. This provides health units the opportunity to advocate on behalf of issues of public health with the support of alPHa.

Next Steps

Given the increasing evidence that supports the impact SSB is having on the health of children, further legislative action is required. As per the recommendations found in the Heart and Stroke Position Paper, taxation of SSB will impact consumption and the gained revenue can be used to subsidize healthy options such as fruits and vegetables. Sending forward a resolution as found in [Appendix A](#) to alPHa will play a role in the need for a comprehensive approach to enhance the health of our children.

Staff will bring forward a report about further steps at the municipal level and to describe the comprehensive approach currently being taken by the Health Unit at a Board of Health meeting later this spring.

This report was prepared by Mary Lou Albanese, Manager of Child Health, with input from all Health Unit dietitians.



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Medical Officer of Health and CEO

<p>This report addresses the following requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards (2015): Foundational Standard 3, 4; Chronic Disease Prevention 2, 11.</p>
