



June 6, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health, Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos:

Re: Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

The link between alcohol and chronic disease, injury, and death is a significant public health concern.

WHEREAS alcohol is a well-established risk factor for premature death and injury due to unintentional injuries, violence, cancer, liver disease, heart disease, and high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Center on Substance Use and Addiction released new [guidelines](#) and information in January 2023 about alcohol consumption and health; and

WHEREAS within the Public Health Sudbury & District's catchment area, only 37% of adults report that they are aware that consumption of alcohol every day may increase their risk of cancer; and

WHEREAS Public Health Sudbury & Districts has elevated and increasing rates of heavy drinking (27.9% PHSD in 2019/2020, compared with 15.6% for the province); and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Association and multiple Ontario boards of health in Ontario are writing in support of Senator Brazeau's Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages), which, if passed, would require the industry to

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include informative labels on alcoholic bottles discussing health risks and standard drink size;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts similarly convey its support for federally mandated health risk labels on all alcohol containers sold in Canada and urge members of parliament and senators to support Bill S-254.

Based on new guidelines published by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health](#), the health risks associated with alcohol consumption are better known. However, given current perceptions and routine promotions of alcohol consumption within popular culture, a gap exists between the populations' understanding of the associated health risks and alcohol consumption behaviours. A review of data in the area served by the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts points to an evident gap in this understanding.

The Board of Health plays a key role in advocating for the best interests of those who live in Sudbury and districts. Alcohol warning labels, including information about standard drink sizes, empower individuals to make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption and their health.

We thank you for your attention to this important health promoting initiative. We ask that you support Senator Brazeau's call through Bill S-254 to implement alcohol labelling to ensure Canadians make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption and their health.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Patrick Brazeau, Senator
Donald Plett, Senator
Raymonde Saint-Germain, Senator
Scott Tannas, Senator
Jane Cordy, Senator
Marc Gold, Senator
Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Government of Canada
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health, Government of Ontario
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
All Ontario Boards of Health