

CORRESPONDENCE – October 2022

a) **Date:** September 22, 2022

Topic: Board of Health Motion re Saving Lives Through Lifejacket and Personal Floatation Device Legislation

From: Public Health Sudbury & Districts

To: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Background:

At its September 15, 2022 meeting, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts passed a resolution to “strongly advocate for legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal floatation device (PFD) or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment.”

Recommendation: Receive.

b) **Date:** October 7, 2022

Topic: THU Letter of Support – Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding

From: Timiskaming Health Unit

To: The Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier

Background:

At its September 7, 2022 regular meeting, the Timiskaming Board of Health passed a motion to support correspondence from Public Health Sudbury & Districts in response to Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding. The correspondence from Public Health Sudbury & Districts was endorsed by the Middlesex-London Board of Health at the July 14, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

Recommendation: Receive.



Public Health
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SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

September 22, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Saving Lives Through Lifejacket and Personal Flotation Device Legislation

At its meeting on September 15, 2022, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts carried the following resolution # 25-22:

WHEREAS over the 10-year period 2012 – 2021, 2147 Ontarians had emergency visits that resulted from a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft and 208 Ontarians died because of a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft over the last 10 years of complete data (2006-2015); locally during the same periods 65 Sudbury & districts residents had emergency visits that resulted from a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft and 8 died because of a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require boards of health to be aware of and use data to influence and inform the development of local healthy public policy for preventing injuries; and

WHEREAS although there is federal legislation requiring that lifejackets or personal flotation devices (PFD) be on board vessels, there is no legislation requiring that individuals wear a lifejacket or PFD while on a pleasure boat; and

WHEREAS legislation requiring the wearing of lifejackets and PFDs has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions to save lives;

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Letter to Premier of Ontario

Re: Saving Lives Through Lifejacket and Personal Flotation Device Legislation

September 22, 2022

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly advocate for legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be submitted to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health, Minister of Transportation, local members of Provincial Parliament, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), and all Ontario Boards of Health.

The Board of Health is pleased to lend its voice to the many others who are calling for this common sense solution to saving lives. We would respectfully request the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre. Chair
Board of Health

cc: All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Honourable C. Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Honourable S. Jones, Minister of Health
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serré, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hugues, Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing



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October 7, 2022

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
56 Wellesley Street W, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M74 1E9
MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca

Dear Hon. Minister Fullerton:

Re: Funding for the Healthy Babies, Health Children (HBHC) Program

At its meeting on September 7, 2022, the Board of Health for Timiskaming Health Unit considered correspondence from Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) regarding the above noted matter. We are in full support of PHSD's call to action and share their concern and the concern of other local public health agencies regarding the HBHC program funding.

Motion No: 2022-33R

Moved by: Nina Wallace Seconded by: Jesse Foley

"THAT the Timiskaming Board of Health endorse the letter from Public Health Sudbury & District (PHSD) regarding Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding, respectfully requesting the Minister's commitment to carefully review base-funding needs for the HBHC program to ensure this essential program is sufficiently resourced to meet the current and growing needs of children and a healthy start in life, and that this be communicated in writing to the Ontario Minister of Children, Community and Social Services with copies to Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health, Local MPPs, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Chair, Governing Council of Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health, Executive Director of Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health.

Sincerely,

Carman Kidd
Board of Health Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
 Honourable, John Vanthof MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane
 Sanober Diaz, Executive Director of Provincial Council for Maternal and Child Health
 Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor, Chair, Governing Council of Provinc. Council for Maternal and Child Health
 Loretta Ryan, Executive Director Association of Local Public Health Agencies



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

June 21, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Government of Ontario
438 University Avenue, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Honourable Minister:

Re: Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding

The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts remains wholly committed to the critical Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, however, has longstanding and increasing concerns about the Board's ability to meet clients' growing needs with current program funding. Please be advised that at its meeting on June 16, 2022, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts carried the following resolution #19-22:

THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts request the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) to review base-funding needs for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program to ensure this essential program is sufficiently resourced to meet the current and growing needs of children and a healthy start in life.

The Board of Health recognizes that the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program provides a critical prevention/early intervention program and is designed to ensure that all Ontario families with children (prenatal to age six) who are at risk of physical, cognitive, communicative, and/or psychosocial problems have access to effective, consistent, early intervention services. Since 1997 the province has committed to resourcing the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program at 100%. Unfortunately, the HBHC budget has not been increased since 2015, resulting in significant erosion in capacity due to fixed cost increases such as collective agreement commitments and steps on salary grids, travel and accommodation costs, and operational and administrative costs.

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This has been further compounded by the increased intensity of need in our communities pre-dating but further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The HBHC program has made every effort to mitigate the effects of the funding shortfalls over the years and to protect programming. The program, however, is not sustainable and significant service reductions will be required without increased to base funding.

It remains our priority to ensure that the HBHC program can effectively identify and support children and families most in need throughout the Sudbury/Manitoulin District. To this effect, we are submitting a revised 2022/23 HBHC program budget based on current needs and requesting consideration by the Ministry staff.

The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is respectfully requesting the Minister's commitment to carefully review base-funding needs for the HBHC program to ensure this essential program is sufficiently resourced to meet the current and growing needs of children and a healthy start in life.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor, Chair, Governing Council of Provincial Council for
Maternal and Child Health
Sanober Diaz, Executive Director of Provincial Council for Maternal and Child
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