

April 21, 2023

Ann-Marie Kungl, Board of Health Chair
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9

Re: Support for 'BILL S-254 An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)'

Dear Chair Kungl,

At the April 20, 2023 meeting, under Correspondence item [a\)](#), the Middlesex-London Board of Health moved to endorse the following item:

Date: March 15, 2023

Topic: Support for 'BILL S-254 An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

From: Ann-Marie Kungl, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

To: Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada

The Middlesex-London Board of Health received a report at the March 16, 2023 Board of Health meeting titled "[Burden of Health Attributable to Smoking and Alcohol Consumption in Middlesex-London](#)". This report outlined the statistics and outcomes for the Middlesex-London region related to alcohol consumption and smoking. For Middlesex-London specifically, the following alarming data relating to alcohol was reported by Public Health Ontario:

- Between 2015 and 2017, 36.5% of the Middlesex-London population 19 years of age and older reported that they had more than two drinks per week.
- Attributable harm outcomes related to alcohol consumption in the Middlesex-London population 15 years of age and older resulted in 154 deaths, 842 hospitalizations and 6,968 emergency department visits. These local outcomes (related to alcohol consumption) resulted in 4.1% of all deaths, 2.4% of all hospitalizations, and 3.8% of all emergency department visits.

While the report notes that progress has been made in decreasing the proportion of people who regularly consume alcohol, there remains a substantial population health burden.

The Middlesex-London Board of Health urges support to amend Bill S-254, in order to change warning labels on alcoholic beverages to provide more transparent risks for consuming alcohol.

Sincerely,



Matthew Newton-Reid
Board Chair
Middlesex-London Health Unit



Dr. Alexander Summers MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Middlesex-London Health Unit



Emily Williams
Secretary and Treasurer
Middlesex-London Health Unit

CC: Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Ontario
Senator Patrick Brazeau
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, alPHa
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
Linda Stobo, Manager, Substance Use Program Team
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health