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Public Health Research, Education and
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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

August 25, 2010

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Government and Planning Policy Division
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
777 Bay Street, Floor 14
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

Attention: Mr. Kyle MacIntyre - Manager (A)

**Subject: EBR Posting 010-9766 – Review of the Provincial Policy
Statement, 2005**

Dear Mr. MacIntyre:

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on EBR Posting 010-9766 – Review of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2005. OPHA is committed to addressing the relationship between the built environment and health in order to encourage health-promoting and health-protective development patterns.

The Ontario Public Health Association is a not-for-profit organization with a unique interdisciplinary and multifaceted structure that provides a unified and independent approach to safeguarding and improving the health of all Ontarians. For over 60 years, OPHA has provided leadership on important issues and has served as a catalyst for strengthening public and community health by supporting key functions such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, monitoring health status and decreasing disparities. Through strategic collaborations and partnerships, OPHA is increasingly positioning itself as the voice of public health in Ontario.

Public Health Units across Ontario are addressing the complex issues and impacts related to the built environment including: air quality, climate change, water quality, access to healthy foods, obesity, physical activity, traffic related injuries, falls and general wellbeing across the lifespan. The growing body of research identifies that the way our communities are designed can adversely affect the health of residents, as shown by increasing rates of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory illnesses, traffic injuries and exposures to environmental contaminants. As such, the OPHA urges the Ministry to incorporate the attached recommendations which outline key areas in the Provincial Policy Statement where health considerations should be introduced, strengthened and/or interwoven into existing objectives and policies.

OPHA has also included recommendations for new policy areas and additional support material for the PPS. The OPHA recommendations are similar to those being submitted by ALPHA (Association of Local Public Health Agencies) and other health units across the province. The recommendations provided do not simply *protect* the health of the public, but proactively advance the incorporation of planning measures that have been shown to improve health and to prevent illness over the long term.

By incorporating the attached recommendations into the PPS, the province will demonstrate leadership in creating health promoting and protective communities. OPHA thanks you for this opportunity to provide input on the Provincial Policy Statement. If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Kiran Ghai at 905-791-7800, extension 2459 or Pat Fisher at 519-883-2004, extension 5698, Co-Chairs of the Health and Built Environment Workgroup.

Sincerely,



Liz Haugh
President