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**Constituent Societies**  
ANDSOOHA – Public Health  
Nursing Management in Ontario

Association of Ontario  
Health Centres

Association of Public Health  
Epidemiologists in Ontario

Association of Supervisors of Public  
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Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch)

Community Health Nurses' Initiatives  
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Health Promotion Ontario:  
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Ontario Society of Nutrition  
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Public Health Research, Education  
and Development (PHRED)  
Program

Charitable Registration  
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

November 21, 2001

**To: The Honourable Tony Clement  
M.P.P. Brampton West  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care**

**Re: Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding**

Dear Minister Clement:

At its recent annual meeting held on November 5th, 2001, the membership of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) passed the following motion on: ***Healthy Babies Healthy Children funding.***

**WHEREAS** the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is a prevention/early intervention initiative, "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", and,

**WHEREAS** the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is a mandatory program for all Boards of Health; and,

**WHEREAS** the province committed in 1997 to funding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program at 100%; and,

**WHEREAS** collective agreement settlements, travel costs, pay increments and accommodation costs have increased the costs of a program, the management and administration costs of which are already "subsidized" by the cost-shared budget for provincially mandated programs; and,

**WHEREAS** the Early Years and Healthy Child Development Branch has advised many Boards of Health across the province that they cannot accept a 2001 budget that is "not within the Board of Health's annual grant allocation" (based on the 2000-funding grant allocation); and

**WHEREAS** alignment with the 2000-funding grant allocation will require reducing services and reducing the Health Babies Healthy Children staff complement; and

**WHEREAS** alignment with the 2000-funding grant allocation will require ceasing the development of all new Healthy Babies Healthy Children program components,

**THEREFORE** I would like to move that the OPHA Board of Directors advocates to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and the Minister of Community and Social Services to fully fund all program costs related to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, including all staff, operating and administrative costs;

**AND FURTHERMORE** that OPHA Board of Directors seeks the support of all it's constituent societies, Ontario Boards of Health, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), Registered Nursing Association of Ontario (RNAO), and the Public Health Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in this matter.

OPHA is very concerned that shortfalls in Healthy Babies Healthy Children funding will result in significant service reductions to young children. We are very pleased with your government's stated commitment to children's health and respectfully request that this commitment be operational zed by adequately funding this program.

Yours in public health,

Connie Uetrecht  
President, OPHA