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Honorary Patron

The Hon. James K. Bartleman
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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
Health Inspectors of Ontario

Canadian Institute of Public Health
Inspectors (Ontario Branch)

Community Health Nurses' Initiatives
Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario:
Public Health

Ontario Association of Public Health
Dentistry

Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals
in Public Health

Public Health Research, Education and
Development (PHRED) Program

Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier
Province of Ontario
Main Legislative Building
Room 281
Queen's Park, Ontario
M7A 1A1

December 11, 2006

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Re: Sale and Distribution of Unpasteurized Milk

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) would like to join our partners in public health in commending you on your stance to uphold existing requirements for mandatory pasteurization of milk and milk products in Ontario.

We are referring specifically to your recent comments in the media and the news release dated November 29 highlighting the great health risks associated with the consumption of unpasteurized milk. As you are aware, much scientific evidence exists of outbreaks of human illness related to the consumption of unpasteurized/raw milk in both Canada and the United States. Although anyone can be affected, those most vulnerable to serious illness are our children, our senior citizens, and those with weakened immune systems. Pasteurization markedly increases the safety of milk and milk products, and reduces the risk of significant food-borne illness for all Ontarians.

OPHA's members work in all fields of public health, including food safety and the prevention of infectious disease outbreaks. We look forward to working with you and supporting your efforts to maintain and strengthen a public health system that protects the health and safety of all Ontario residents.

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association. OPHA is an organization of individuals and ten Constituent Societies from various sectors and disciplines that have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan
President, OPHA

cc: Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. George Pasut, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. David Williams, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Karim Kurji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, York Region
Dr. Hazel Lynn, Medical Officer of Health for Grey and Bruce Counties
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, alPHa
Dr. Liana Nolan, President, alPHa
Dr. Graham Pollett, Chair, COMO
Mr. Adam Grant, President, CIPHI (Ontario Branch)