



**RESOLUTION #2**

**Mandatory Training for Personal Services Workers**

**September 2010**

**Contents:**

Resolution.....2

**Resolution: Mandatory Training for Personal Services Workers.**

**WHEREAS** in the past decade the number of personal services settings has increased substantially; **and**

**WHEREAS** the variety and complexity of personal services provided has increased from manicures/pedicures, simple piercing and tattooing to include more invasive body modification including scarification, branding, implanting, splitting and genital cutting; **and**

**WHEREAS** tattooing and body piercing has become very popular, especially among adolescents and young adults who require no parental consent for these procedures but may be influenced by peer pressure and may not fully appreciate the infection control risks they are taking; **and**

**WHEREAS** many of the extreme body modification procedures are not done for the purpose of accommodating a piece of jewellery as required for the exemption of subsection 27 of the Regulated Health Professions Act; **and**

**WHEREAS** extreme body modification procedures which are not being offered by physicians are now being offered by body modification operators who do not have the medical training to deal with complications and medical emergencies; **and**

**WHEREAS** most body modification operators learn their profession from other operators through an unregulated apprenticeship or from “how to” kits available on line which give minimal instructions regarding proper infection control practices and general safety; **and**

**WHEREAS** if piercing, tattooing and body modification procedures are improperly administered there is a risk to both the client and the operator that life-threatening illnesses such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV among other bacterial and viral infections can be transmitted; **and**

**WHEREAS** the “Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Service Settings”, January 2009, document identifies that the owner/operator is responsible for educating their staff on infection prevention and control measures but does not require personal service workers to be licensed or certified; **and**

**WHEREAS** the “Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings” Protocol under the Ontario Public Health Standards indicates that the Board of Health shall offer education to the personal service workers and/or operator annually in regards to infection prevention and control practices for such settings; **and**

**WHEREAS** prosecutions of infractions under the Best Practices Personal Services Protocol have to be done under Section 13 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act which can be time consuming, and expensive; **and**

**WHEREAS** in the past five years several public health units throughout the province have had to issue letters to clients of personal services settings and/or issue a media release recommending these clients seek medical tests and the advice of a physician after receiving services in premises where biological monitoring of the sterilizer was not done. Such actions are

extremely stressful for the client and time consuming for public health staff and would be less likely to occur if there was mandatory training of personal services workers; **and**

**WHEREAS** both the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Ontario) support the mandatory training of personal services workers.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the OPHA continue to advocate to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to take legislative measures to mandate the training and certification of personal services workers (PSWs) to ensure that appropriate infection prevention and control measures are taken to reduce the risk of transmission of blood borne and other types of infection for both clients and personal services workers during the delivery of personal services. Retraining and recertification of PSWs must be done every five years.