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June 14, 2005

The Honourable Stéphane Dion
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington St., 28th Floor
Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Dion:

Re: Ontario Public Health Association Resolution Calling for Development of Interior Lead Dust Standards

I am writing on behalf of the Environment Health Workgroup of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA). Founded in 1949, OPHA is a volunteer, non-profit organization established to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

Recognizing that your mandate, as the Minister of the Environment of Canada, is to continue development of nationally consistent environmental standards and objectives to achieve a high level of environmental quality, OPHA wishes to bring to your attention a policy paper/resolution developed by our Workgroup and adopted by the OPHA membership at its General Meeting in November 2004.

The paper, entitled "[*Childhood lead exposure and housing sources: Does a problem exist in Ontario?*](#)" (PDF) was written in response to a recent Health Canada survey of Ottawa homes, which found *interior* dust lead concentrations in amounts that would exceed provincial guidelines for residential soil lead levels. This paper recommends the development of protective standards for lead in interior dust.

Attached is a copy of this policy paper/resolution, which can be downloaded from our website at www.opha.on.ca/advocacy/list.html. Kindly bring this paper to the attention of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

Sincerest regards,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan
President, Ontario Public Health Association

cc. Theresa Schumilas, Chair, OPHA Environmental Health Workgroup
Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment