



Ontario Public Health Association
 l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario
 Established/Établi 1949

The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

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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

Ontario Association of Public
 Health Dentistry

Charitable Registration
 Number 11924 8771 RR0001

November 9, 2015

Valerie Quioc Lim, Clerk
 Ontario Standing Committee on Social Policy
 Room 1405, Whitney Block
 Queen's Park, Toronto,
 ON M7A 1A2

Dear Ms. Quioc Lim,

RE: Bill 73, Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015

Further to your public notice, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above legislation. OPHA welcomes changes to the Planning Act and Development Charges Act, 1997 in order to give residents more meaningful say in how their communities grow and provide more opportunities to fund initiatives that can promote complete communities (e.g. those that include increased public transit, affordable housing). We offer the following three recommendations:

- Inclusionary zoning can be an important tool to prevent economic segregation of communities and make more affordable housing available in new developments and therefore, should be included in this legislation. This would allow municipalities to give incentives based on a percentage of affordable housing units created in the course of a development project, something that municipalities are unable to do now.
- We agree that transit funding should not be based on an area's historical averages but it should be extended to development funding in general (not just limited to transit funding) so that the cycle of poverty experienced by some communities would not be entrenched.
- We welcome the expansion of dispute resolution/arbitration measures; having a health perspective included when a dispute is being resolved would be beneficial.

Members of OPHA's expert Workgroup on the Built Environment would be pleased to discuss these comments further and/or provide further information as needed. Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Pegeen Walsh