

700 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 310
Toronto, Ontario M6A 3B4

Tel: (416) 367-3313
1-800-267-6817 (Ont)
Fax: (416) 367-2844
E-mail: info@opha.on.ca
www.opha.on.ca

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Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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Carol Timmings
E-mail: ctimmings@opha.on.ca

Executive Director

Connie Uetrecht
E-mail: cuetrecht@opha.on.ca

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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

October 28, 2002

Dr. Colin D'Cunha
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Director, Public Health Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Dr. D'Cunha,

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), in accord, are writing you to express our concerns regarding the process the Public Health Branch is using to revise the five Mandatory Programs under review.

The three associations agree that revising and continually improving the mandatory health programs are important components of protecting the health and safety of all Ontarians. Additionally, we agree that the proposed changes to the reproductive health, child health, chronic disease prevention, early detection of cancer, and injury and substance abuse prevention mandatory programs represent the most current information regarding the delivery of these services and will improve public health delivery. We also understand that the Public Health Branch will be editing the proposed changes for consistency purpose and we anticipate that any amendments will not alter the intent of the program.

However, AMO, OPHA and aLPHa would like to express our concerns regarding some of the specific issues. We hope that these issues can be addressed at the next Mandatory Program Steering Committee Meeting. The concerns are as follows:

1. Local flexibility in delivering the programs must be enhanced;
2. If the revisions to the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines are not revenue neutral, then all financial impacts relating to the revisions must be funded entirely (100%) by the Province;
3. All stakeholders must become aware of the process that the Minister will employ when assessing their compliance with the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines;
4. Municipalities and health units have approached the delivery

of public health services in their communities as a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. At times, the communications between the partners has lagged and we believe, can be enhanced;

5. Verification on the reporting structure of the Mandatory Program Steering Committee and the process of receiving the final approval of any changes to the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines is required;

AMO, OPHA and aPHa would appreciate your feedback regarding these concerns during the April 5th meeting. Thank you in advance for your consideration. We believe, that working together, public health services can be delivered at the highest level possible.

Sincerely,

Ken Boshcoff

President

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Connie Uetrecht

President

Ontario Public Health Association

Larry O'Connor

President

Association of Local Public Health Agencies