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Constituent Societies

Association of Ontario
Health Centres (AOHC)

Association of Public Health
Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)

Association of Supervisors of
Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
(ASPHIO)

Canadian Institute of Public Health
Inspectors (Ontario Branch) (CIPHIO)

Community Health Nurses'
Initiatives Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)

Ontario Association of Public
Health Dentistry (OAPHD)

Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health
(OSNPPH)

The Ontario Association of Public
Health Nursing Leaders, (OAPHNL)

Sent via email: ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org

January 13, 2017

The Honorable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister, Health and Long-Term Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
900 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Hoskins,

RE: *Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015*

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your Government on the recent introduction of calorie counts to menus at restaurants and food service providers across Ontario. OPHA believes this is a bold move that will lead to Ontarians making more informed and healthier food choices, contributing to their overall health and wellbeing. We applaud the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) for making Ontario the first province in Canada to introduce such labeling measures.

The OPHA is a unified voice for Ontario's public and community health stakeholders and professionals, and works to provide leadership and contribute to improving the health of all Ontarians. We were pleased that the MOHLTC consulted with us, together with Dietitians of Canada and the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, regarding the *Health Menu Choices Act, 2015*. During the final stage of the consultation, we recommended that a contextual statement with one single value (2000 calories/ day) be added to menus to enhance consumers' understanding of daily caloric needs and their ability to make informed menu choices. We were very satisfied with your Ministry's decision to accept and have the statement implemented come 2018.

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Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

As always, we are pleased to work with your Government and the MOHLTC on issues affecting the health, nutrition and wellbeing of Ontarians and ensuring that they can make informed food and beverage choices.

Sincerely,

Ellen Wodchis

Ellen Wodchis
President, OPHA

cc: The Honorable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, jleal.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org