



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

Service de
santé publique

*Make it a
Healthy
Day!*

*Vivez Santé
dès
aujourd'hui!*

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
☎ : 705.522.9200
☎ : 705.522.5182

Rainbow Centre

40 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 109
Sudbury ON P3C 1S8
☎ : 705.522.9200
☎ : 705.677.9611

Chapleau

101 rue Pine Street E
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
☎ : 705.860.9200
☎ : 705.864.0820

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
☎ : 705.222.9202
☎ : 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON POP 1S0
☎ : 705.370.9200
☎ : 705.377.5580

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.Charles ON P0M 2W0
☎ : 705.222.9201
☎ : 705.867.0474

Toll-free / Sans frais
1.866.522.9200

www.sdhu.com

December 19, 2013

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

Re: 2013 Nutritious Food Basket

Each year the Sudbury & District Health Unit, along with all health units across the province, follows the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) protocol to conduct the NFB survey. The NFB survey monitors the cost of healthy eating. Every year, the NFB results demonstrate that households on social assistance or minimum wage cannot afford a nutritious diet after paying for housing costs and other basic necessities such as transportation, clothing, and personal care items. The NFB highlights the nutritional vulnerability of social assistance recipients and those earning a minimum wage.

On behalf of the Sudbury & District Board of Health, I am pleased to provide you with the Infograph, titled, [Limited Incomes: A Recipe for Hunger](#), which outlines the impact of the cost of healthy eating in the Sudbury & District Health Unit's catchment area. On November 21, 2013, the Board of Health carried motion #58-13:

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Board of Health annually monitor the cost of healthy eating in the Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) area in accordance with the Nutritious Food Basket Protocol and the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol per the Ontario Public Health Standards 2008; and

WHEREAS the 2013 costing results continue to show that individuals and families living on social assistance, or low incomes, cannot afford healthy food after paying for housing and other necessities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health continue to urge the provincial government to ensure access to nutritious food for all Ontarians by increasing social assistance rates and the minimum wage to levels that reflect the true cost of purchasing nutritious food, based on annual results from the Nutritious Food Basket costing;

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FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health request the provincial government implement the recommendations of the Healthy Kids Panel report that focus on reducing poverty and that address the food system; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health share the SDHU Nutritious Food Basket 2013 Infographic with appropriate community agencies, boards, local MPPs, mayors and councils throughout the SDHU area.

Thank you for your commitment to these important matters.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Encl.

cc: The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Community and Social Services
The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Rick Bartolucci, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France G linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
John Vanthof, Member of Provincial Parliament, Timiskaming-Cochrane
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. Vivek Goel, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Ontario
Pat Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer, Sudbury and Manitoulin-Sudbury District Social Services Administrative Administration Board
Janet Gasparini, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Sudbury
Vonda Croissant, Executive Director, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
Sudbury & District Health Unit Constituent Municipalities
Ontario Boards of Health