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June 30, 2015

*ÉLÉCTRONIC MAIL*

The Honourable Tracy MacCharles  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services  
14<sup>th</sup> floor, 56 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister MacCharles:

**Re: Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program**

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program is a 100% funded Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) program provided by all 36 Ontario Boards of Health. Established in 1998, HBHC supports healthy child development by identifying vulnerable families and providing or connecting them with appropriate supports.

As with many boards of health across the province, the Sudbury & District Board of Health has been increasingly challenged to meet Ministry expectations for HBHC service provision within the 100% funding envelope. At its meeting on June 18, 2015, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #28-15:

*WHEREAS the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program is a prevention/early intervention initiative designed to ensure that all Ontario families with children (prenatal to age six) who are at risk of physical, cognitive, communicative, and/or psychosocial problems have access to effective, consistent, early intervention services; and*

*WHEREAS the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program is a mandatory program for Boards of Health; and*

*WHEREAS in 1997 the province committed to funding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program at 100% and the HBHC budget has been flat-lined since 2008; and*

*WHEREAS collective agreement settlements, travel costs, pay increments and accommodation costs have increased the costs of implementing the HBHC program, the management and administration costs of which are already offset by the cost-shared budget for provincially mandated programs; and*

*WHEREAS the HBHC program has made every effort to mitigate the outcome of the funding shortfall, this has becoming increasingly more challenging and will result in reduced services for high-risk families if increased funding is not provided.*

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*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health direct staff to prepare a budget and program analysis of the HBHC program, outlining pressures and options for mitigation, detailing program and service implications of these options as compared against MCYS expectations; and*

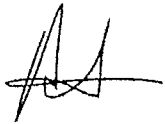
*FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health advocate strongly to the Minister of Children and Youth Services to fully fund all program costs related to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program, including all staffing, operating and administrative costs.*

*FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and all Ontario Boards of Health.*

It remains our priority to ensure that the HBHC program can effectively identify and support children and families most in need throughout the Sudbury/Manitoulin District. We look forward to further dialogue with MCYS on how we can best achieve this goal together.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting)  
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Boards of Health