



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

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December 1, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

**Re: CANNABIS REGULATION AND CONTROL: Public Health
Approach to Cannabis Legalization**

At its meeting on November 19, 2015, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #54-15:

WHEREAS the election platform of Canada's recently elected federal government includes the intention to legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana; and

WHEREAS within the current criminalization context, cannabis is widely used in the SDHU catchment area: 23.5% of youth used in the previous 12 months, 52.3% of people aged ≥19 have tried cannabis and 13% currently use cannabis; and

WHEREAS the health risks of cannabis use are significantly lower than tobacco or alcohol but are increased in those who use it frequently, begin at an early age and/or who have higher risk of cannabis-related problems (i.e. certain psychiatric conditions, cardiovascular disease, pregnancy); and

WHEREAS a public health approach focused on high-risk users and practices – similar to the approach favoured with alcohol and tobacco that includes strategies such as controlled availability, age limits, low risk use guidelines, pricing, advertising restrictions, and general and targeted prevention initiatives – allows for more control over the risk factors associated with cannabis-related health and societal harms; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require boards of health to reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of preventable injury and of substance misuse;

Letter

Re: Cannabis Regulation And Control: Public Health Approach to Cannabis Legalization

December 1, 2015

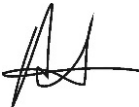
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health support a public health approach to the forthcoming cannabis legalization framework, including strict health-focused regulations to reduce the health and societal harms associated with cannabis use; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be shared with the Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, local Members of Parliament, the Premier of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Federal Minister of Health, the Attorney General, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Association, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and local community partners.

Members of the Sudbury & District Board of Health respectfully request that the Right Honourable Prime Minister use a public health approach to the regulation and legalization of cannabis in Canada.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Hon. Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
Carol Hughes, MP Algoma, Manitoulin, Kapuskasing
Paul Lefebvre, MP Sudbury
Marc Serré, MP Nickel Belt
Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Attorney General of Ontario
Glenn Thibeault, MPP Sudbury
France Gélinas, MPP Nickle Belt
Michael Mantha, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (Interim)
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Dr. Catherine Zahn, President and Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Addiction and
Mental Health
Ontario Boards of Health