

February 27, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
Sent via e-mail: [doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Support for Provincial Oral Health Programs for Low Income Adults and Seniors**

At its meeting held on February 13, 2019, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health considered correspondence from Sudbury & District Health Unit regarding the above noted matter.

Oral health is essential to overall health and quality of life at every stage of life and has been recognized as a basic human right. The Board echoes the recommendations outlined in their resolution (attached) and we fully support the provincial government's plan to invest in an oral health program for low-income seniors and urge that access be expanded to include low-income adults.

We look forward to receiving more information about how local public health agencies in Ontario can assist and support the implementation of a new oral health program for low-income seniors, with the potential to include low-income adults.

We appreciate your attention to this important public health issue.

Yours in health,

***Original signed by***

Councillor Kathryn Wilson  
Chair, Board of Health

/ag  
Encl.

cc: The Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Local MPPs  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Boards of Health



**Public Health  
Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

December 7, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Support for Provincial Oral Health Program for Low Income Adults and Seniors**

I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts to share our sincere appreciation for the provincial government's support of a provincial oral health program for low-income seniors. This is a welcome addition to oral health programs already available for children and youth in low-income families through Healthy Smiles Ontario.

The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts has a keen interest in oral health. In reviewing our 2018 data on oral health, we identified that to further support oral health for all Ontarians, programs are needed for low-income adults, in addition to those in place or planned for children, youth and seniors.

At its meeting on November 22, 2018, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #42-18:

**Sudbury**

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f: 705.522.5182

**Rainbow Centre**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

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

**Espanola**

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

**Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0  
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**Chapleau**

101 rue Pine Street E  
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[phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca)



Letter

Re: Support for Provincial Oral Health Program for Low Income Adults and Seniors

December 7, 2018

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*WHEREAS* as compared with other provinces, Ontario has the lowest rate of public funding for dental care, as a percentage of all dental care expenditures and the lowest per capita public sector spending on dental services, resulting in precarious access to dental preventive and treatment services, especially for low-income Ontarians; and

*WHEREAS* the Ontario Progressive Conservative party pledged to implement a comprehensive dental care program that provides low income seniors with quality care by increasing the funding for dental services in Public Health Units, Community Health Centres, and Aboriginal Health Access Centres and by investing in a new dental services in underserved areas including increasing the capacity in public health units and investing in mobile dental buses;

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT* the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts fully support the Premier's plan to invest in oral health programs for low income seniors and further encourage the government to expand access to include low income adults; and

*FURTHER* that this motion be shared with area municipalities and relevant dental and health sector partners, all Ontario Boards of Health, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and local MPPs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward hearing more about the role public health can take in support of a new oral health program for low income adults and seniors that is cost effective and accessible.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Honorable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Mr. Jamie West, MPP, Sudbury  
Ms. France Gelinas, MPP, Nickel Belt  
Mr. Michael Mantha, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin  
All Ontario Boards of Health  
Constituent Municipalities within Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
Ms. Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Dr. David Diamond, President, Sudbury & District Dental Society  
Dr. Tyler McNicholl, vice-president, Sudbury & District Dental Society  
Ms. Jacque Maund, Alliance for Healthier Communities