



**KFL&A**  
Public Health

April 25, 2019

VIA: Electronic Mail ([doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org))

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**RE: Endorsement of the Children Count Task Force Recommendations**

The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Board of Health passed the following motion at its April 24, 2019 meeting:

**That the KFL&A Board of Health endorse the Children Count Task Force Recommendations and send correspondence to:**

- 1) The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- 2) The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier
- 3) The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education
- 4) The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
- 5) Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
- 6) Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
- 7) Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington
- 8) Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- 9) Ontario Boards of Health

At present, there are approximately 50 federal programs collecting health data on the Canadian population, many of which include school age children and youth. Notwithstanding the number of sources, data collected from these surveys are not always collected in a way that provides representative results at the regional and local levels. As such, Ontario needs a coordinated and cost-effective system for measuring the health and well-being of children and youth to inform local, regional and provincial programming. Such a system will enable stakeholders at all levels (local, regional and provincial) to effectively measure the health and well-being of our kids, and in turn, the return on investment in relevant programs.

To address this gap, the Children Count Task Force has made one overarching recommendation, which is to create a secretariat responsible for overseeing the implementation of the systems, tools, and resources required to improve the surveillance of child and youth health and well-being in Ontario. To further support this secretariat, the task force made an additional five recommendations:

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**Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health**

[www.kflaph.ca](http://www.kflaph.ca)

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- **Recommendation 1:** Create an interactive web-based registry of database profiles resulting from child and youth health and well-being data collection in Ontario schools.
- **Recommendation 2:** Mandate the use of a standardized School Climate Survey template in Ontario schools and a coordinated survey implementation process across Ontario.
- **Recommendation 3:** Develop and formalize knowledge exchange practice through the use of centrally coordinated data sharing agreements.
- **Recommendation 4:** Develop and implement a centralized research ethics review process to support research activities in Ontario school boards.
- **Recommendation 5:** Work with the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) of Ontario to develop a guideline for the interpretation of privacy legislation related to student health and well-being data collection in schools.

The KFL&A Board of Health urges the Government of Ontario to act on the recommendations from the Children Count Task Force.

Yours truly,

Denis Doyle, Chair  
KFL&A Board of Health

Copy to: The Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier  
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