



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: Minimizing harms associated with the announced expansion of the sale of beverage alcohol in Ontario**

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 ask the Government of Ontario to outline the actions that they will take to implement their commitment to the safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol in Ontario as noted in the 2019 provincial budget; and**

**THAT the KFL&A Board of Health strongly urge the provincial government to ensure that any plan to address the safe and responsible sale and consumption of beverage alcohol include a wide range of evidence-based policies including: implementing alcohol pricing policies, controlling physical and legal availability, curtailing alcohol marketing, regulating and monitoring alcohol control systems, countering drinking and driving, educating and promoting behaviour change, increasing access to screening and brief interventions, and surveillance, research and knowledge exchange, and that this plan be funded, and monitored for effectiveness; and**

**THAT the KFL&A Board of Health ask the Government of Ontario to indicate how much alcohol consumption will increase with the proposed expansion over the next five years, how much this increased consumption will cost the justice, social and health care systems over the next five years, and the fiscal plan to pay for these anticipated costs;**

**AND FURTHER THAT correspondence be sent to:**

- 1) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- 2) Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Finance, Chair of Cabinet
- 3) Honourable Christine Elliot, Provincial Minister of Health and Long-term Care, Deputy Premier
- 4) Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands
- 5) Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
- 6) Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington

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

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- 7) **Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies**
- 8) **Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-term Care**
- 9) **Ontario Boards of Health**

The recent release of the 2019 Ontario budget includes a number of changes to increase the choice and convenience of beverage alcohol for consumers. However, this same document, while assuring Ontarians that safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol in Ontario is, and will continue to be, a top priority, the document does not include any specific action by the Government of Ontario to realize this goal. The KFL&A Board of Health would be pleased to hear the government's plans for safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol. Furthermore, there are many evidence-based strategies that protect and promote health that KFL&A Public Health would encourage the government to include in this plan.

In addition, evidence from other provinces have demonstrated that increases to the availability of alcohol had negative social and health outcomes, including increased alcohol-related traffic incidents and suicides. These are the short-term impacts of the over-consumption of alcohol. Longer term effects will result in increased chronic diseases such as cancers and heart disease both of which are costly to manage and treat. There is no reason to believe that the expansion of beverage alcohol sales in Ontario will not have the same result – an increase in alcohol consumption with the concomitant increase in health, social and justice services use, and hence, costs. The KFL&A Board of Health would also be pleased to hear from the provincial government regarding how much the increase in alcohol availability is anticipated to impact consumption and the use of health, social and justice services. Furthermore, the KFL&A Board of Health would ask that the government provide a plan for how these anticipated expenses will be funded.

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  
                 The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Education  
                 The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and Minister  
                 Responsible for Women's Issues  
                 Ian Arthur, MPP Kingston and the Islands  
                 Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston  
                 Daryl Kramp, MPP Hastings-Lennox and Addington  
                 Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
                 Ontario Boards of Health