

## Health Unit



### Hastings & Prince Edward Counties

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#### B R A N C H O F F I C E S

March 7, 2013

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Minister Deb Matthews  
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews

I am writing on behalf of the Hastings and Prince Edward Board of Health to request that your Ministry provide funding to support free nicotine therapy (NRT) at smoking cessation programs offered by boards of health.

Our Health Unit has been providing low-cost NRT at smoking cessation clinics for several years. Our clinics are well-attended and our quit rates are excellent. We have subsidized costs of NRT from our operating budget. We are, however, facing financial pressures and may not be able to continue this indefinitely.

Your Ministry currently provides funding for free NRT to clients of Family Health Teams and Community Health Centres. Why should this service be restricted to those Ontario residents privileged enough to enjoy this level of primary care. Your current policy leaves substantial gaps in population coverage that only public health can fill effectively. Surely, what is good for one is good for all.

The partnership between your Ministry and local public health has been the cornerstone of tobacco control in Ontario for more than 20 years. We are your most loyal and effective agents for change. Please assist us in this worthwhile cause.

Sincerely

Beth Campbell  
Chair, Board of Health

cc Ontario Boards of Health

Kate Manson-Smith, ADM

Arlene King, CMOH