

March 18, 2013

The Honourable Deborah Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Deputy Premier
Hepburn Block
10th floor, 80 Grosvenor Street,
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister,

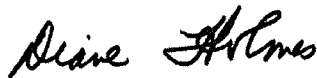
I am writing, on behalf of the Ottawa Board of Health, to endorse the Healthy Kids Panel report: No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy, and to urge the inter-ministerial working group to develop a comprehensive government action plan to implement The Healthy Kids Strategy.

I commend you for appointing the Healthy Kids Panel, which has developed a comprehensive strategy that supports the provincial government's commitment to reducing childhood obesity in Ontario by 20 per cent over five years. I also thank the Healthy Kids Panel for including Ottawa Public Health and the Council of Medical Officers of Health in their extensive consultations. This recognition of local efforts and resources has led to recommendations which, once adopted, will provide legislative and political support needed to better address this complex issue.

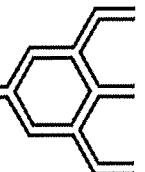
Successfully meeting the target will require partnership across all sectors including health care, non-profit organizations, and industry. Consequently, the Ottawa Board of Health is committed, as a municipal public health partner, in advancing these initiatives. As a first step, the recommendations put forth by the Healthy Kids Panel complement the Ottawa Board of Health's Healthy Eating, Active Living Strategy, released May 2012.

On behalf of the Ottawa Board of Health, I commend you for taking critical steps in addressing childhood obesity in our province. I look forward to discussing local implications of the Healthy Kids Panel recommendations; partnering with the inter-ministerial working group; and discussing the Healthy Eating, Active Living Strategy, as it complements the Province's commitment to reducing childhood obesity.

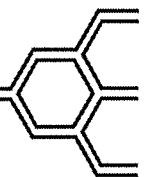
Sincerely,



Diane Holmes
Chair, Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit
City Councillor



Cc: The Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services
The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, M.P.P., Ottawa West-Nepean
Mr. Grant Crack, M.P.P., Glengarry-Prescott-Russell
Mr. Jack MacLaren, M.P.P., Carleton-Mississippi Mills
Ms. Lisa MacLeod, M.P.P., Nepean-Carleton
Mr. Dalton McGuinty, M.P.P., Ottawa South
Mr. Phil McNeely, M.P.P., Ottawa-Orléans
The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, M.P.P., Ottawa-Vanier
The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, M.P.P., Ottawa Centre
Ontario Boards of Health



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Minister of Children and Youth Services
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

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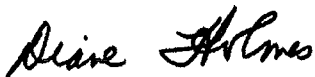
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