

Ministry of
Health Promotion and Sport

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de la
Promotion de la santé et du Sport

Bureau de la ministre

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



APR - 7 2011

MHP3034MC-2011-203

MAR 31 2011

His Worship Mayor Bob Bratina
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Hamilton City Council's endorsement of a report by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit regarding energy drinks.

Health Canada is responsible for the oversight and regulation of energy drinks. I wrote to the federal health minister and expressed my concerns about energy drink consumption among children and youth, the potential negative health effects and the general lack of consumer awareness about the content and potential risks of consumption of energy drinks.

Our government is committed to promoting and protecting the health of all children and youth in Ontario. While Health Canada is responsible for regulating energy drinks, the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport continues to provide education and promote awareness about healthy food and beverage choices. Our government supports healthy eating through the *Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act, 2008*, which eliminates unhealthy trans fat from food and beverages sold in schools. In addition, we established new nutrition standards for food and beverages sold in schools. Candy, energy drinks and fried foods are among items that will no longer be sold in schools.

We also established EatRight Ontario, a province-wide service that gives Ontarians access to free information about nutrition and healthy eating, including energy drinks. Individuals can ask questions about nutrition and receive feedback from a registered dietitian. The service can be accessed by telephone, toll-free, at 1-877-510-510-2 or online at www.ontario.ca/eatright.

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As well, we provide funding to EatSmart!, an award program that recognizes workplaces, school cafeterias and recreation centres that meet exceptional standards in safe food-handling and healthy food choices.

Parents also have an important role to play in this issue by educating their children about healthy food and beverage choices.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Margarett Best
Minister

c: Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, federal Minister of Health
Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK			
APR 08 2011			
REC'D BY.....	PC	DATE.....	
REF'D TO.....		DATE.....	
REF'D TO.....		DATE.....	
REF'D TO.....	Carly	DATE.....	treason Council
ACTION: cc Dr. Richardson			
Chris W.			