

2002 alPha RESOLUTION NO. A02 - 6

TITLE: Arsenic in Drinking Water

SPONSOR: Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health of alPha

WHEREAS Arsenic is a known human carcinogen¹; and

WHEREAS Ontario has an Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration (IMAC) of Arsenic in drinking water of 0.025 mg/L ² (25 parts per billion ppb) since at least 1994³; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada established an objective level for arsenic of less than or equal to 0.005 mg/L (5 ppb) in 1978 ⁴; and

WHEREAS the National Research Council of the United States National Academy of Sciences has concluded that:

1. There is increasing evidence that chronic exposure to arsenic in drinking water may be associated with an increased risk of hypertension and diabetes,⁵ and
2. the **excess** cancer risk for bladder and lung cancers combined at arsenic concentrations in drinking water between 3 and 20 ppb are estimated to be between 9 and 72 per 10,000 people.⁶

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPha) urges the Government of Ontario to amend Regulation 459/00 under the Ontario Water Resources Act to set a Maximum Acceptable Concentration for Arsenic in drinking water of 0.003 mg/L (3 ppb).

Action from Conference:

Moved:

A. Hukowich (Haliburton, Kawartha)

Seconded:

D. Corriveau (Porcupine)

Carried

¹International Agency for Research in Cancer

²Schedule 4, Ontario Regulation 459/00 as amended by O.R. 506/01 under the Ontario Water Resources Act

³Ontario Drinking Water Objectives (Revised, 1994), p. 10

⁴ Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality 1978 , Supporting Documentation, p. 159

⁵ Arsenic in Drinking Water: 2001 Update, p. 214

⁶ Ibid., p. 223