

alPHa RESOLUTION A14-3

TITLE: Designating Provincially and Municipally Funded Multi-Unit Dwellings Smoke-Free

SPONSOR: Board of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit

WHEREAS tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable illness and death in Ontario; and

WHEREAS there are more than 4000 chemicals found in second-hand-smoke (SHS), of which at least 250 are regulated toxins, and 69 are known carcinogens, or cancer causing agents; and

WHEREAS there is no safe level of exposure to SHS; and

WHEREAS in adults, SHS exposure can cause serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases including lung cancer and coronary heart disease; in children, it can cause Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asthma, ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia; and

WHEREAS eliminating smoking in indoor spaces is the only way to fully protect nonsmokers from SHS exposure; cleaning the air and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate SHS; and

WHEREAS now that most Ontarians are protected under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) in public places and workplaces such as bars and restaurants, hospital entrances, casinos, the common areas of multi-unit dwellings, as well as in cars with children under 16, demand for other smoke-free environments is on the rise, particularly in multi-unit dwellings (MUDs); and

WHEREAS under the SFOA smoking is prohibited only in common areas and not inside individual units in shared housing; and

WHEREAS residents who live in social units, especially children, the elderly and persons with pre-existing health conditions, continue to be negatively affected by second-hand smoke exposure; and

WHEREAS there is a growing need for smoke-free housing options as evident in a recent Ipsos Reid survey, where one-third of respondents indicated being regularly exposed to SHS in their homes and 80% would choose to live in a smoke-free building if given their preference; and

WHEREAS smoke-free policies in multi-unit dwellings are legal, enforceable and non-discriminatory;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and its stakeholders:

- to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare of all Ontario residents by ensuring that new provincially and municipally funded multi-unit dwellings are designated smoke-free; and,
- that any future provincial funding for housing require as a criteria for eligibility, that any new units be designated as smoke-free.

AND FURTHER that the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Resolution CARRIED