

alPHa RESOLUTION A09-8

TITLE: 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak in Ontario

SPONSOR: Durham Region Health Department

WHEREAS The 2008 listeriosis outbreak affected 7 provinces and resulted in 56 confirmed cases being reported and 21 persons having died; and

WHEREAS Ontario was the hardest hit province such that 41 of the cases and 16 deaths occurred in this province; and

WHEREAS Ontario's Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) struck a Provincial Listeriosis Review Committee to provide him with advice on improving the public health response to foodborne outbreaks; and

WHEREAS The CMOH released a Report on the Management of the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak in Ontario with recommendations in the following areas: Clarify roles and responsibilities in outbreak management; strengthen laboratory capacity; enhance Ontario's capacity to detect foodborne outbreaks and improve communication; and

WHEREAS It is important that these recommendations be fully implemented in order for Ontario's public health system to effectively identify and respond to any future cross-jurisdictional foodborne or other outbreaks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that alPHa urges the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to act immediately to implement the recommendations of the CMOH's Report on the Management of the 2008 Listeriosis Outbreak in Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that alPHa urges the Government of Ontario and Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure that boards of health receive sufficient provincial funding to ensure that local public health agencies have the capacity to investigate and report foodborne and other outbreaks in as complete and timely a fashion as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that alPHa urges the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health to track the implementation of his recommendations and publicly report on the status of implementation at least annually until they are fully implemented; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health Canada, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Finance and Health and Long-Term Care, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, and the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion are so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Moved: K. Gorman (Durham)

Seconded: B. Hughes (Timiskaming)

Resolution CARRIED