



June 5, 2009

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier and Minister of Research and Innovation
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

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Clerk's Department

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMMI
Regional Clerk

**RE: MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER
& MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED MAY 21, 2009 RE:
TORONTO BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLUTION
OUR FILE: P10-00**

Honourable Sirs, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on June 3, 2009 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the following recommendations of the Toronto Board of Health dated April 20, 2009, with respect to food safety and foodborne illness, be endorsed:

A) THAT the Government of Ontario implement the outstanding recommendations of the 2005 Report of the Meat Regulatory and Inspection Review (the Haines Report), including:

- i) Require all food premises to implement a provincially-developed food safety program based on a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point approach;
- ii) Amend the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* to require that all food premise operators and at least one other person present in the food premise at all times of operation be a certified food handler;
- iii) Develop and implement a province-wide public health investigation, compliance and enforcement policy for all food premises; and
- iv) Develop and implement uniform consumer food safety education programs;



- B) THAT the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care explore the feasibility of making all health service data on gastrointestinal illness (the Integrated Public Health Information System; Telehealth Ontario; the Ontario Laboratory Information System; and the new Emergency Room Information System) available to local public health units and to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to enable early identification of potential clusters of foodborne illness;
- C) THAT the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion enhance laboratory capacity for rapid identification of agents of foodborne illness in Ontario;
- D) THAT the Government of Ontario explore legislative and funding options to ensure food handlers are compensated for absences from work due to gastrointestinal illness;
- E) THAT the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) ensure that Boards of Health receive sufficient provincial funding to comply fully with the Food Safety Protocol of the Ontario Public Health Standards;
- F) THAT the Government of Ontario and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency require full and timely disclosure of the food safety performance of all food premises they inspect, including premises inspected by local public health units;
- G) THAT the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, with input from local public health units, review: the Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response Protocol to Guide a Multi-Jurisdictional Response (FIORP); the Ontario Foodborne Health Hazard and Illness Outbreak Investigations Memorandum of Agreement; and the Food Premises Plant Investigation: Multi-agency Roles document, to ensure that:
 - i) Roles and responsibilities of responding agencies are clear and consistent in all protocols, including lead responsibility for public communications;
 - ii) Regular training, including multi-agency simulation exercises, is provided for staff of all responding agencies; and

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- iii) A process is put in place for activating FIORP and striking an outbreak coordination committee of responding agencies whenever a significant multi-jurisdictional outbreak occurs;
- H) THAT the Canadian Food Inspection Agency review its food recall and public notification policies and procedures to ensure that:
 - i) A food product is recalled and the public notified when epidemiological evidence provides reasonable and probable grounds to conclude that cases of foodborne illness are linked to consumption of a food product; and
 - ii) Public communications and recall verification procedures are thorough and effective in reducing exposure to a potentially hazardous food product;
- I) THAT the report be shared with: the federal Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Agri-food; the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC); Sheila Weatherill; the Ontario Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Natural Resources; the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies; the Ontario Public Health Association; and all Boards of Health in Ontario.; and
- b) THAT the Prime Minister of Canada, Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Health Canada, Durham's MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Finance, and Health and Long-Term Care, Durham's MPPs, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, aPHa, and all Ontario boards of health be so advised."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM III
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

- c: The Honourable G. Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable, L. Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada

c. cont.:

C. Carrie, MP (Oshawa)
J. Flaherty, MP (Whitby/Oshawa)
D. McTeague, MP (Pickering/Scarborough East)
B. Devolin, MP (Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
The Honourable B. Oda, MP (Clarington/Scugog/Uxbridge)
M. Holland, MP (Ajax/Pickering)
D. Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer
The Honourable L. Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food
and Rural Affairs
The Honourable, D. Duncan, Minister of Finance
The Honourable, D. Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term
Care
R. Johnson, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock)
W. Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge)
C. Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Ajax)
J. O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
J. Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
J. Dickson, MPP (Ajax/Pickering)
D. Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
L. Stewart, Executive Director, alPha
All Ontario Boards of Health
R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health