



May 19, 2009

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

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The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier and Minister of Research and Innovation
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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM I
Regional Clerk

RE: 2008 LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK IN ONTARIO (2009-MOH-11)
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 May 13, 2009 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the following resolution embodied in clause 9 of Report #2009-MOH-11 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health, be adopted as the Region's position on the management of outbreaks caused by foodborne illnesses:

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
- Improve communication, and

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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 aPHa 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 aPHa 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 aPHa 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 be so advised.; and

- b) THAT this resolution be forwarded to aPHa for consideration by the delegates to the 2009 Annual Conference."



Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

- c: The Honourable, L. Aglukkaq, Minister of Health Canada
D. Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer
The Honourable, D. Duncan, Minister of Finance
The Honourable, D. Caplan, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care

c. cont:

D. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A)

V. Goel, President and CEO, Ontario Agency for Health Protection
and Promotion.

L. Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health
Agencies

R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health