



Services de santé du
TIMISKAMING
 Health Unit

Enhancing your health in so many ways!

Head Office:

421 Shepherdson Road
 New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
 Tel: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Dymond Tel: 705-647-8305 Fax: 705-647-8315
 Englehart Tel: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
 Kirkland Lake Tel: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

RESOLUTION

Date: October 9th, 2013
 Resolution #: **01-2013, Enhancing Access to Oral Care Services**
 MOVED BY: Mike McArthur
 SECONDED BY: Louise Hayes

At its October 9th, 2013 meeting, the Timiskaming Board of Health passed a motion to support the following resolution:

WHEREAS dental caries can lead to infection, pain, abscesses and poor nutritional status in young children and recognizing there is a relationship between dental caries and childhood obesity, dental caries, particularly in serious cases, can damage a child's sense of self-esteem, which in turn, may affect his or her school performance.

WHEREAS poor oral health can affect more than just the mouth, there is an increasing amount of evidence showing a connection between oral health and general health and well being. Periodontal disease has been linked to a number of disease including; diabetes, respiratory illness, low birth weight babies, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

WHEREAS there are currently programs to ensure that people who cannot afford dental care, do not fall through the cracks, it is important to realize that families who have income of \$20,000 annually, may still be struggling to access and pay for dental care, especially families with two children or more.

WHEREAS better access to oral health services could result in savings to the health care system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Timiskaming Health Unit strongly recommend the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to increase the minimum income of \$20,000 per year of the Healthy Smile Ontario program to improve the integration and/or alignment of low income oral health services within the broader health care system.

AND FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and all Boards of Health of Ontario.

- X Carried
 Defeated
 Deferred

Chair - Board of Health



Services de santé du
TIMISKAMING
Health Unit
Enhancing your health in so many ways.

Head Office:
247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:
Dymond Tel.: 705-647-8305 Fax: 705-647-8315
Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476
www.timiskaminghu.com

October 18th, 2013

Minister Deb Matthews
Min, of Health & Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

Subject: Enhancing Access to Oral Care Services

The Board of Health for Timiskaming Health Unit recently passed the enclosed resolution. Oral health is an important issue for all Ontarians as it has considerable impact on overall health. Low income families struggle to make ends meet and the current income threshold for determining access to subsidized dental programs is set too low. Many families earning incomes greater than \$20,000 per annum, will spend all of their income providing food and shelter leaving nothing available for dental care.

We sincerely hope you will support us in our efforts to improve access to dental care for those in need.

Sincerely,

Carman Kidd
Board of Health Chairperson

Marlene Spruyt
Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer

cc Dr. Vivek Goel, Public Health Ontario
Ontario Boards of Health