March 26, 2007

The Hon. Tony Clement
Minister of Health
Minister’s Office - Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney’s Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
OTTAWA ON  K1A 0K9

Dear Mr. Clement:

re: Support for the Trans Fat Task Force Report Recommendations
TBDHU Resolution 07-24

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the Thunder Bay District and obesity, a risk factor for CVD, is higher than the provincial average. Our District also has one of the highest rates of diabetes in Ontario.

There is a significant and growing body of evidence linking industrially-produced trans fat to coronary heart disease and indicating it may do even more harm than saturated fats. There is also mounting data linking trans fat with obesity, insulin sensitivity, diabetes, and premature birth. Industrially-produced trans fat not only increases LDL (bad cholesterol) levels like saturated fats, it also decreases HDL (good cholesterol) levels in the blood. The World Health Organization recommends that trans fat be limited to less than 1% of total energy intake, or 2 grams a day. Meanwhile, Canadians are consuming one of the highest amounts of trans fat in the world, averaging up to 10 grams a day.

In December 2005, Canada became the first country to alert consumers to the presence of trans fat by including trans fat on the nutrition label. Reduction of trans fat in food processing, however, remains voluntary. Until the reduction of trans fat is regulated, current intakes in Canadians will likely not decrease to recommended levels.

The Trans Fat Task Force, commissioned by Health Canada, has made recommendations in their final report, “TRANSforming the Food Supply”, June 2006, that include comprehensive regulatory limits, research, development and industry incentives, consumer protection, awareness and public education. The federal Government has yet to act upon these recommendations.

At its Regular Meeting of March 20, 2007, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health joined Niagara Regional Area, Durham Regional, and Sudbury & District Health Units in urging the Federal Minister of Health to act on the recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force.
The Thunder Bay District Board of Health respectfully requests your support of
and action on its Resolution 07-24, and urges the Government to act on the
recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force Report:

"WHEREAS the total consumption of trans fat in Canadians is estimated
to be 3 – 10 grams, while the recommended limit is 2 grams;

AND WHEREAS significant research evidence indicates the link between
trans fat and coronary heart disease and, to some extent, diabetes and
obesity;

AND WHEREAS the leading cause of death in Northern Ontario is heart
disease; and Thunder Bay District Health Unit has higher than provincial
average rates of diabetes and obesity;

AND WHEREAS the Trans Fat Task Force provided recommendations to
the federal Minister of Health on how to reduce trans fat intake in the
Canadian diet;

AND WHEREAS these recommendations include comprehensive
proposed regulatory limits, research, development and industry
incentives, consumer protection, awareness and public education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Thunder Bay District Board
of Health endorse the Trans Fat Task Force Report: TRANSforming the
Food Supply. June 2006;

AND FURTHER THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health urge the
federal Minister of Health to move forward from the regulated labeling of
trans fat on prepackaged foods and to act on the recommendations from
the "Trans Fat Task Force Report: TRANSforming the Food Supply",
June 2006;

AND FURTHER THAT copies of this motion be forwarded to the federal
Ministers of Health, and Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Chief Public
Health Officer, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Local Members of
Parliament, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Premier of
Ontario, the provincial Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, Health
Promotion, and Agriculture, the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, the
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), the Ontario Public
Health Association (OPHA), Ontario Boards of Health, and member
municipalities for their support and action."

Sincerely,

original signed by

Nancy E. Cameron, BSc., MD, MHSc., DOHS
Medical Officer of Health / CEO

copy:  see following page
copy: The Hon. C. Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Dr. D. Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada
Mr. K. Boshcoff, MP, Thunder Bay - Rainy River
Mr. J. Comuzzi, MP, Thunder Bay Superior North
Mr. M. Gravelle, MPP, Thunder Bay Superior North
Mr. B. Mauro, MPP, Thunder Bay – Atikokan
The Hon. D. McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. G. Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Hon. J. Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
The Hon. L. Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Dr. G. Pasut, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)
Ontario Boards of Health
Member Municipalities