4 April 2007

11.1 (c)

The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers
Minister of Children and Youth Services
Government of Ontario
900 Bay Street, M1-57 Macdonald Block
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1R3

Dear Madame Minister:

At its 28 March 2007 meeting, the KFL&A Board of Health passed the following motion:

THAT the Board of Health write to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, outlining the funding shortfalls faced by the KFL&A Healthy Baby, Healthy Children Programme for 2007, the consequences of the shortfalls and a request for remediation.

The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Programme is an extremely important one to the mothers of Ontario. This programme, however, has had only modest increments over the years, increments which do not allow the programme to be maintained at its optimum level. This problem is common across Ontario and jeopardizes programmes in all areas, including the KFL&A area. This programme is valued, necessary, and appreciated, as indicated by the attached unsolicited letters from some mothers who have received services.

If the budget for Healthy Babies, Healthy Children for 2007-2008 is not increased to a level which allows the maintenance of the current programme, this service will be reduced to the detriment of the mothers of the KFL&A area. This is not a step that we wish to take, but we cannot maintain this programme if regular cost increases are not met. We have written in the past with these concerns without success, but this year is different, in that we will not be able to maintain our staff complement unless there are adjustments made to accommodate the normal increases in costs that programmes sustain, just to maintain the status quo.

As a result of this situation, the KFL&A Board of Health has also authorized Dr. Ian Gemmill, Medical Officer of Health, to sign a budget for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) that will accommodate services without reduction. This is in contrast to the budget, with no accommodation for natural increases that has been prescribed by the MCYS. The Board has authorized this because of their serious concern of their reduction of services.

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health

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As we have said on previous occasions, we would be pleased to meet with you and explain the concerns that we have about the lack of funding for the normal increases in program costs that are required to keep services the same. We do not wish to reduce services, but this is a situation that we will face, unless your Ministry approves the attached budget.

I trust that this situation can be resolved, without reduction of services and to the satisfaction of all parties.

Yours faithfully,

Beth Pater, Chair  
Board of Health

IMG:cbk  
Enclosures  
cc: KFL&A Board of Health  
    K. MacRae, Director, Family Health Programme, KFL&A Public Health  
    Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Agencies  
    Hon. L. Dombrowsky, MPP  
    Hon. J. Gerretsen, MPP  
    M. Allen, Strategic Policy & Planning Division, MCYS  
    L. Stewart, Executive Director, alPHA