November 23, 2010

Via Electronic Mail

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney’s Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Dear Minister:

Re: Childhood Immunization

At its meeting on November 18, 2010, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #55-10:

WHEREAS immunization is one of the most effective public health strategies, saving more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other single health intervention; and

WHEREAS immunization coverage rates are important indicators of health, estimating the proportion of individuals who have completed a recommended immunization series; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) require that Boards of Health undertake activities to reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS in the absence of mandatory immunization reporting by all health care providers, public health has inaccurate immunization coverage information upon which to base important vaccine preventable disease program decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health advocate to the federal government for a national vaccine registry to collect, analyse (by geographic and socio-demographic variables), share and report immunization information, particularly in early childhood; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health urge the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to develop legislation, beyond the Day Nurseries Act, that assists public health units in monitoring the vaccine coverage rates of infants, toddlers and preschool children; and
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FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health urge the MOHLTC to develop legislation that requires the reporting of all publicly funded immunizations provided by health care providers; and

THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Public Health Association, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and all Ontario boards of health.

Thank you for your attention to this important public health issue aimed at achieving the best possible immunization coverage for all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer

c.: Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada
The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Connie Uetrecht, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
All Ontario Boards of Health