May 10, 2010

The Honourable Margaret Best  
Minister – Minister’s Office  
Ministry of Health Promotion  
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

Subject: Harmful Effects of Artificial Tanning and In Particular for Youth Who are Most Susceptible to the Damaging Effects of UV Radiation

At its April 28, 2010 regular meeting, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit passed the following resolution:

Resolution #BOH/2010/04/05

Whereas, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Ontario, accounting for one-third of all new cancer diagnoses, and

Whereas, Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is globally recognized as being carcinogenic and the relationship to skin cancer is well documented, and

Whereas, World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer rates tanning beds in the highest cancer risk category - group 1 - ‘carcinogenic to humans’, and

Whereas, Melanoma, the least common but most serious type of skin cancer, is increasing significantly in incidence and is the second most common form of cancer in people in Ontario between the ages of 15-34, and

Whereas, There is strong evidence that exposure from artificial tanning equipment increases the risk of melanoma, especially when exposure is started during childhood and adolescence,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit write a letter to the Honourable Margaret Best, expressing support for the Canadian Cancer Society’s (Ontario Division) call for government action and join other professional bodies across Ontario such as the Canadian Dermatology Association and Cancer Care Ontario to encourage the development of strong and comprehensive legislation that will protect the public from the harmful effects of artificial tanning, and
Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Board of Health endorse the “No Tan Is Worth Dying For!” campaign that supports the Canadian Cancer Society’s call to action and urges the Government of Ontario to enact legislation that bans the use of artificial tanning equipment by youth under the age of 18, and

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, members of federal and provincial government representing our service area, and to Ontario Boards of Health for their information and possible support.

We thank you for your involvement with this important issue and look forward to the Government of Ontario supporting the Canadian Cancer Society’s call to action, which includes enacting legislation that bans the use of artificial tanning equipment by youth under the age of 18.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mae Bain, Chairperson
Board of Health

Copied to:
1) The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
2) The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services
3) The Honourable Tony Clement, M.P. (Parry Sound-Muskoka)
4) The Honourable Monique Smith, MPP (Nipissing)
5) Anthony Rota, M.P. (Nipissing-Timiskaming)
6) Norm Miller, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka)
7) David Ramsay, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane)
8) Ontario Boards of Health
9) Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies