March 12, 2007

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER &
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2007
RE: TORONTO BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLUTION
OUR FILE: P10-00

Honourable Minister, the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on March 7, 2007, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the resolution of the Toronto Board of Health respecting the cost of a nutritious food basket, as detailed in a memorandum from Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health, dated February 22, 2007, be endorsed; and

b) THAT the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Finance, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Labour, Durham's MPPs, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, alPHA, OPHA and all Ontario boards of health be so advised."

Please see attached correspondence detailing the City of Toronto's resolution of January 29, 2007 regarding the "Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket".

Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/If

c: See following page

Attachment
c: The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
The Honourable Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services
The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community & Social Services
The Honourable Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
The Honourable Steve Peters, Minister of Labour
Mr. Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge)
Ms. Christine Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Ajax)
Mr. John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
Mr. Jerry Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
Ms. Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Victoria/Brock)
Dr. George Pasut, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Long-Term Care (Acting)
Ms. L. Stewart, Executive Director, alPHA
Dr. Garry Aslanyan, President, OPHa
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair A. Cullen and Members
    Health & Social Services Committee

FROM: Dr. Robert Kyle

DATE: February 22, 2007

RE: Toronto Board of Health Resolution

On January 29, 2007, the Secretary of the Toronto Board of Health forwarded the appended correspondence to all Ontario boards of health for support (Appendix A).

In essence, the operative clauses of the resolution embodied in the correspondence, pertinent to the Regional Council as Durham’s Board of Health, urge the Government of Ontario:

- To increase the Basic Allowance of social assistance such that it covers a nutrition allowance which meets the daily nutritional needs and other basic needs such as clothing, transportation, etc.;
- To publish how social assistance components, including the nutrition allowance of the Basic Allowance, is set;
- To increase the minimum wage to ensure that low wage earners are better able to afford nutritious food; and
- To update the Nutritious Food Basket costing tool based on the recently released 2007 version of Canada’s Food Guide (Appendix B).

Appendix C is the most recent Nutrition Matters, which summarizes the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket in Durham Region. Regional Council has endorsed similar resolutions in the past.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to the Regional Council that:

a) The resolution of the Toronto Board of Health respecting the cost of a Nutritious Food Basket is endorsed; and

b) The Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Finance, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, Labour, Durham’s MPPs, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, alPHA, OPHA and all Ontario boards of health are so advised.
The Commissioner of Social Services concurs with this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

R.J. Kyle, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
January 29, 2007

To: Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Health Canada
    Association of Local Public Health Agencies
    Ontario Public Health Association, Community Food Security Workgroup
    Ontario Boards of Health
    Association of Ontario Health Centres
    Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health
    Dietitians of Canada

From: Board of Health

Subject: Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket – Toronto 2006

The Board of Health on January 29, 2007, considered a report (January 15, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information on the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2006, and recommending measures to improve health through increased access to nutritious food for low-income individuals and families.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a presentation and filed a copy of his presentation materials.

The following persons addressed the Board of Health:

- Nick Saul, Stop Community Food Centre;
- Rene Adams; and
- Janice Etter, Toronto Food Policy Council, and filed a written submission.

The Board of Health:

(A) adopted the recommendations in the report (January 15, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health amended to read as follows:

1. the Board of Health request the Premier of Ontario to increase social assistance benefit rates so that the Basic Allowance includes a nutrition allowance which meets daily nutritional needs as determined annually by the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket, and that the remainder of the Basic Allowance be set to enable recipients to afford other basic needs including transportation, clothing, and personal care items;

2. the Board of Health request the Premier of Ontario to publish annually the details of current social assistance rate components and how they are determined, including the nutrition allowance portion of the Basic Allowance;
3. the Board of Health recommend to the Government of Ontario that the minimum wage in Ontario be increased to $10.00 per hour as a step towards ensuring that the Province's low wage earners are better able to afford nutritious food;

4. the Board of Health request the Minister of Health Promotion to update the Nutritious Food Basket costing tool, based on the revised Canada’s Food Guide to Healthy Eating after its release in 2007;

5. the Board of Health forward this report to the Ontario Ministers of Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services and Health Promotion, and to the Office of Nutrition Policy & Promotion at Health Canada for action;

6. the Board of Health forward this report to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association’s Community Food Security Workgroup, all Ontario Boards of Health, the Association of Ontario Health Centres, the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health and Dietitians of Canada for action;

7. the Board of Health forward this report to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs drawing their attention to the connection among Canada’s cheap food policy, the decline in food farming and its threat to Canada’s food security;

8. the Board of Health request Toronto Public Health to initiate a dialogue with key stakeholders, such as the Ontario Public Health Association and Association of Local Official Health Agencies, to develop a province-wide campaign highlighting the health impacts arising from the inaffordability of a nutritious food basket for low-income people in Ontario;

9. the Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to work with the General Manager, Social Services, to ensure that the nutritious food basket recommendations are integrated into the City's Action Plan for Social Assistance “Systems of Survival, Systems of Support” Implementation Strategy scheduled to report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the first quarter of 2007 and that a copy of that report also be submitted to the Board of Health; and

B. referred Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 to City Council, through the Community Development and Recreation Committee, for endorsement.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Secretary
Board of Health
Item 3
attachment

Sent to:  
Premier of Ontario  
Ontario Minister of Health Promotion  
Ontario Minister of Community and Social Services  
Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Ontario Minister of Health Promotion  
Ontario Minister of Labour  
Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Health Canada  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Public Health Association, Community Food Security Workgroup  
Ontario Boards of Health  
Association of Ontario Health Centres  
Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health  
Dietitians of Canada  
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Interested Persons
March 12, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

MEMORANDUM FROM DR. ROBERT KYLE, COMMISSIONER & MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2007
RE: CITY OF PICKERING RESOLUTION
OUR FILE: P10-00

Right Honourable Minister, the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on March 7, 2007, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"a) THAT the resolution of the Council of the City of Pickering respecting the regulation of trans fats, as detailed in a memorandum from Dr. R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health, dated February 22, 2007, be endorsed; and

b) THAT the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health Canada, Durham’s MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Promotion, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Durham's MPPs, and municipalities and all Ontario boards of health be so advised."

Please see attached correspondence detailing the City of Pickering's resolution of January 15, 2007 regarding the regulation of trans fats.

Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM I
Regional Clerk

PMM/lf

c: See following page

Attachment
c: The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health
Dr. Colin Carrie, M.P., (Oshawa)
The Honourable Jim Flaherty M.P., (Whitby/Oshawa)
Mr. Dan McTeague M.P., (Pickering/Scarborough East)
Mr. Barry Devolin M.P., (Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
The Honourable Bev Oda M.P., (Clarington/Scugog/Uxbridge)
Mr. Mark Holland M.P., (Ajax/Pickering)
Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Medical Officer of Canada
The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health &
Long-Term Care
The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
Dr. George Pasut, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Long-
Term Care (Acting)
Mr. Wayne Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Ajax/Uxbridge)
Ms. Christine Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Ajax)
Mr. John O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
Mr. Jerry Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
Ms. Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Victoria/Brock)
Mr. M. de Rond, Clerk, Town of Ajax
Mr. G. S. Graham, Clerk-Administrator, Township of Brock
Ms. S. Kranc, Clerk, City of Oshawa
Ms. P. L. Barrie, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington
Ms. D. Bentley, Clerk, City of Pickering
Ms. K. Coates, Clerk, Township of Scugog
Ms. Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge
Mr. P. Jones, Clerk, Town of Whitby
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. R. J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair A. Cullen and Members
Health & Social Services Committee

FROM: Dr. Robert Kyle

DATE: February 22, 2007

RE: City of Pickering Resolution

On January 29, 2007, the Clerk of the City of Pickering forwarded the appended correspondence to the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for action and support (Appendix A).

In essence, the resolution embodied in the correspondence urges the MOH to ensure that a fact sheet on trans fats and human health is prepared. On the same day I received the correspondence, I instructed my staff to prepare such a fact sheet. It should be completed in the near future at which time it will be published, posted and presented to Regional Council.

The resolution also urges Regional Council to endorse Pickering City Council’s resolution that urges the Government of Canada to regulate the use of trans fats in food consumed by Canadians. This resolution is similar to one that was recently endorsed by Regional Council whereby the Government of Canada was urged to implement the recommendations of Health Canada’s Trans Fat Task Force.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to the Regional Council that:

a) The resolution of the Council of the City of Pickering respecting the regulation of trans fats in food is endorsed; and

b) The Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health Canada, Durham’s MPs, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Promotion, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Durham’s MPPs and municipalities and all Ontario boards of health are so advised.

Respectfully submitted,

R.J. Kyle, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
January 29, 2007

Dr. Robert Kyle  
Medical Officer of Health  
Region of Durham, Health Department  
605 Rossland Road East  
P.O. Box 730  
Whitby, ON L1N 0B2

Subject: Notice of Motion, City of Pickering  
Use of A-2400-001-07

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a meeting held on January 15, 2007 and the following recommendations were adopted:

USE OF TRANS FAT

WHEREAS the use of trans fats for the preparation and cooking of foods has been in wide use in North America since the early 70's in the belief that such usage made for a healthier lifestyle as opposed to the continuing use of saturated fats; and

WHEREAS the Medical science, since the early 90's, has repeatedly warned that the use of trans fats were, in fact, worse than the use of saturated fats from a health perspective; and

WHEREAS the use of trans fats results in the raising of bad cholesterol and the lowering of good cholesterol in the body; and

WHEREAS Trans fats usage is responsible for tens of thousands of fatal heart attacks each year in North America as a result of arteries which have become clogged; and

WHEREAS alternatives to the use of trans fats and saturated fats are known to exist, in plentiful supply, such as canola oil and soybean oil;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Pickering, in the strongest possible terms, urge the Federal Minister of Health to legislate the use of trans fats out of food preparation within Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the use of trans fats be banned in the preparation of foods in the quickest possible time frame but not later than January 1st, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Durham Region Medical Officer of Health be requested to prepare a fact sheet for presentation to Durham Regional Council and further that Durham Regional Council be requested to endorse this motion calling on the Federal Government to ban the use of trans fats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that endorsement of this motion also be sought from each Provincial and Territorial municipal association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Minister of Health in each Province and Territory.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4611.

Yours truly,

Debi A. Bentley, CMO, CMM III
City Clerk

DB/Ir

Copy: The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Health
Minister’s Office – Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney’s Pasture
Postal Locator: 9096C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9