25 April 2007

The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Health
Minister’s Office – Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney’s Pasture
Postal Locator 0906C
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Clement:

Re: Support for the ‘Transforming the Food Supply’: Report of the Trans Fat Task Force

On 28 March 2007, the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Board of Health passed the following motion:

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health support the recommendations from the Executive Summary of ‘TRANSforming the Food Supply’: Report of the Trans Fat Task Force submitted to the national Minister of Health, June 2006, and

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health write to the Hon. Tony Clement, national Minister of Health, to express their support for the recommendations in this report.

KFL&A Public Health is joining other public health agencies in urging the federal government to act upon the Task Force’s recommendations on the elimination of industrially produced trans fats in the Canadian diet.

The majority of trans fats are industrially produced and are typically found in foods made with partially hydrogenated oil, primarily baked and fried foods. There is a significant and growing body of evidence linking trans fats to coronary artery disease that indicate trans fats may do even more harm than saturated fats. Even with the growing number of ‘trans fat free’ products on the market, and increased consumer awareness about nutrition labelling, there is no evidence to suggest that these measures will be sufficient to reduce Canadians’ consumption of trans fats below the recommended 2 grams of total daily intake. Meanwhile, Canadians consume the highest amounts of trans fat of any country in the world, averaging up to 10 grams per day per person. Regulation to reduce trans fat in production and sales of foods is required to make a significant difference.

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The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Board of Health strongly supports the Trans Fat Task Force’s recommendations, including: the adoption of comprehensive regulatory limits; research, development and industry incentives; and consumer protection and education. We respectfully request the support and action of you, as the federal Minister of Health on these recommendations.

Yours truly,

Mary Goldberg
Beth Pater, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

cc: Board of Health
Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Agencies
Hon. L. Dombrowsky, MPP
Hon. J. Gerretsen, MPP