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**Health Unit**

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[www.sdhu.com](http://www.sdhu.com)

May 14, 2009

Mr. J. Raymond Chénier  
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
210 Mead Blvd  
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Chénier:

**Re: SDHU "Put Food in the Budget" Resolution**

Thank you for your informative letter of May 8, 2009, following your Board's discussion of the Sudbury & District Board of Health resolution, 15-09 *Put Food in the Budget Campaign*.

Resolution 15-09, as noted in the motion, was in support of the Ontario-wide healthy food supplement campaign of the 25in5 Network, in partnership with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA). The Sudbury & District Board of Health joined its public health partners from across Ontario in advocating for a \$100 supplement for all adults receiving social assistance.

You may be aware that Ontario boards of health are required to conduct annual local nutritious food basket (NFB) costing exercises. Our local findings support the concerns that you note in your letter regarding the challenges faced by local social assistance recipients to afford the basic necessities of life – including nutritious food, housing and other necessities. The Board recognizes that public health advice concerning the importance of healthy diets is ineffective if these diets remain financially out of reach. The NFB reports can be found on the Health Unit's website at [www.sdhu.com](http://www.sdhu.com).

It may be helpful to note that the provincial healthy food supplement campaign did not suggest municipal financing. The work was done in the context of the *Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review* agreement to upload social assistance benefits from municipalities to the province.

The Sudbury & District Board of Health has a mandate to promote and protect health. This is a responsibility that it carries out with diligence and with regard to the full range of determinants of health, including poverty.

As noted in your letter, efforts to reduce poverty require multi-pronged and systemic solutions. I am pleased to know that the DSSAB is working on this issue from your agency's social services perspective. The Sudbury & District Board of Health is working hard to tackle poverty from a health perspective, consistent with its mandated responsibilities.

*An Accredited Teaching Health Unit  
Centre agréé d'enseignement en santé*

Letter  
Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board  
SDHU "Put Food in the Budget" Resolution  
May 13, 2009

Thank you again for your informative letter and please accept my commendations for the work that the MS-DSSAB is doing related to the *2009 Housing Needs, Supply and Affordability Study*. I am pleased to note that staff from the Sudbury & District Board of Health participated in consultations in three of the four MS-DSSAB planning regions.

Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact Dr. Sutcliffe's office at 705-522-9200, ext. 291 should there be a need for further discussion.

Sincerely,



R. Dupuis  
Chair, Sudbury & District Board of Health

c.: Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer  
DSSAB member municipalities