

The Regional Municipality

of Durham

Clerk's Department

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Pat M. Madill, A.M.C.T., CMM III Regional Clerk April 23, 2010

## RECEIVED APR 2 9 2010

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

RE: MOTION FROM DR. HUGH DROUIN, COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES RE: ELIMINATION OF SPECIAL DIET ALLOWANCE OUR FILE: S06-03

Honourable Sir, please be advised the Health & Social Services Committee of Regional Council considered the above matter and at a meeting held on April 21, 2010 Council adopted the following recommendations of the Committee:

"WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, in its March 2010 budget, proposes to eliminate the Special Diet Allowance; and

WHEREAS many Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients have medical conditions which require special diets; and

WHEREAS the current special diet allowance process does require a qualified medical practitioner's recommendation; and

WHEREAS many social assistance recipients spend in excess of 70% of their monthly allowance on shelter costs; and

WHEREAS the basic allowance portion of social assistance rates does not equal the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket calculated annually by Durham Region's Health Department; and

WHEREAS numerous studies have verified that proper nutrition is a key determinant of health; and

WHEREAS it is inadvisable in this time of Provincial budget difficulty to create a new administrative process in the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to manage the new Nutritional Supplement Program while at the same time recipients of the current Special Diet Allowance may not be receiving this benefit for an uncertain period of time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Region of Durham requests that the Province continues the Special Diet Allowance administration through the Ministry of Community and Social Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province work with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), in collaboration with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) to determine if the Special Diet Allowance program can be improved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Community and Social Services increase the Basic Allowance portion of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program to reflect the actual cost of a Nutritious Food Basket and;

THAT the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Community and Social Services, Finance, Health and Long Term Care and Health Promotion, Durham Region MPPs, Chief Medical Officer of Health, OMSSA, alPHa, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Consolidated Municipal Service Managers be so advised."

Pat M. Madill, AMCT, CMM III

Regional Clerk

## PMM/If

c: The Honourable L. Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community & Social Services

The Honourable D. Duncan, Minister of Finance

The Honourable D. Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

The Honourable M. Best, Minister of Health Promotion

R. Johnson, MPP (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock)

W. Arthurs, MPP (Pickering/Scarborough East)

- C. Elliott, MPP (Whitby/Oshawa)
- J. O'Toole, MPP (Durham)
- J. Ouellette, MPP (Oshawa)
- J. Dickson, MPP (Ajax/Pickering)
- A. King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- B. Patterson, President, OMSSA
- L. Stewart, Executive Director, alPHa
- P. Vanini, Executive Director, AMO

Consolidated Municipal Service Managers

- H. Drouin, Commissioner of Social Services
- R.J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health