



April 23, 2010

RECEIVED APR 29 2010

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

The Regional
Municipality
of Durham

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

**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

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