



Sudbury & District

## Health Unit

Service de  
santé publique

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☎ : 705.677.9611

### Chapleau

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☎ : 705.869.5583

### Île Manitoulin Island

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### Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

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Toll-free / Sans frais  
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[www.sdhu.com](http://www.sdhu.com)

May 7, 2014

*VIA EMAIL*

Mr. Les Gamble  
Chair, Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
11 Birch Lake Road  
R.R. #3, Site 1  
P.O. Box 5  
Massey, ON P0P 1P0

Dear Mr. Gamble:

Re: Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Social Housing  
Smoke-Free Policy

I am writing to congratulate the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) on their recent adoption of the Social Housing Smoke-Free Policy (resolution 14-40) that will come into effect on January 1, 2015.

Exposure to second-hand smoke in multi-unit dwellings negatively affects the health of all residents, especially infants, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Second-hand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, of which 69 are carcinogenic and over 250 others are known regulated toxins. Although the primary objective of smoke-free homes is to protect non-smokers from exposure to second-hand smoke, there is also strong and consistent evidence that smoking bans provide an important support to smoking cessation.

Additionally, surveillance data has demonstrated that, between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of households in the SDHU area that were entirely smoke-free increased significantly. However, when comparing this amongst income groups, a gradient is noted such that a significantly lower proportion of households with an income less than \$20,000 were entirely smoke-free compared to households with incomes between \$20,000 - \$49,900 and \$50,000 income groups. Policies, such as the one supported by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, have the potential to reduce these health inequities that exist within our communities.

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

Letter

Re: Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Social Housing Smoke-Free Policy

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The Sudbury & District Health Unit commends the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board in adopting a smoke-free policy to protect the health of tenants living in Social Housing Properties. We look forward to our staff collaborating with representatives of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board to support this policy initiative. David Groulx, Acting Director of the Health Promotion Division at the Sudbury & District Health Unit will be contacting Mr. Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer, to offer our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PS', written over a horizontal line.

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

cc: Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer, MSDSB