



Sudbury & District

Health Unit

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December 5, 2017

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: Food Insecurity/Nutritious Food Basket Costing

I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the Board of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit to share our sincere appreciation for two recent provincial policy decisions in support of food security, a serious public health concern. The basic income pilot, which includes a commitment to work with First Nations communities, and the commitment to increase the minimum wage rate are two key policy initiatives that are expected to significantly support food security for Ontarians.

The Board of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit has a keen interest in food security. We recently reviewed our 2017 data from the annual Nutritious Food Basket Survey and concurred that to further support food security, additional income policies and standardized approaches to monitoring food costs are needed at both the provincial and federal levels.

At its meeting on November 23, 2017, the Sudbury & District Board of Health carried the following resolution #48-17:

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Board of Health has monitored the cost of healthy eating on an annual basis in accordance with the Nutritious Food Basket Protocol and the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol per the Ontario Public Health Standards 2008; and

WHEREAS the draft [Standards for Public Health Programs and Services, 2017](#) do not include the Nutritious Food Basket Protocol which is a concern because food costing data gathered by public health units each year is important for policy and program development; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Community Health Survey's Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM) is a measure of food security but is not always a mandatory core module; and

WHEREAS regular and consistent monitoring of household food insecurity is essential for evidence-informed policy decision making;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sudbury & District Board of Health request that social assistance rates be increased immediately to reflect the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket and local housing costs; and

THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health advocate to the Province to ensure continued consistent local surveillance and monitoring of food costing by public health units through the continuation of a Nutritious Food Basket Protocol and Guidance document; and

THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health advocate to Statistics Canada for the HFSSM to become a core module of the Canadian Community Health Survey; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health share this motion and supporting materials with community agencies, boards, municipalities, elected representatives and others as appropriate throughout the SDHU catchment area.

Thank you for your attention to the important public health matters raised in this motion.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Ms. Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Mr. Marc Serré, MP, Nickel Belt
Mr. Paul Lefebvre, MP, Sudbury
Ms. Carol Hughes, MP, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Mr. Glenn Thibeault, MPP, Sudbury
Ms. France Gélinas, MPP, Nickel Belt
Mr. Michael Mantha, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. P. Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
All Ontario Boards of Health
Constituent Municipalities within the SDHU catchment area
First Nations within the SDHU catchment area