



April 20, 2005

Sent via email

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

At a regular Board of Health meeting for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, held April 15, 2005 the following resolution was passed:

Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives

Date: April 15, 2005

Moved By: Dave Fawcett

Resolution # 2005-37

Seconded By: Carol Lawrence

Whereas the overweight and obesity epidemic is one of the biggest public health challenges facing Grey Bruce and Ontario today, and

Whereas that 40% of Grey Bruce adults have a Body Mass Index (BMI) considered to be overweight, significantly higher than the provincial average of 33% and 17% of Grey Bruce adults have a BMI considered to be obese, slightly higher but not statistically significant, than the provincial average of 15% (CCHS 2000/01), and

Whereas the alarming fact that obesity amongst Canadian children ages seven to 13 has tripled between 1981 and 1996, and

Whereas, overweight and obesity are contributing to a dramatic increase in illnesses such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension and some cancers, and

Whereas overweight and obesity cost the Canadian health care system in 2000/01 an estimated \$4.3 billion: \$1.6 billion in direct costs, such as hospital care, drugs, and physician services; and \$2.7 billion in direct costs, such as lost earnings due to illnesses and premature deaths associated with obesity (Katzmarzyk et al, 2004), and

Whereas we live in an "obesogenic" environment; communities, workplaces, schools and homes that actually promote or encourage obesity and that there are a complex combination of biological, lifestyle, socio-economic, cultural and environmental factors that influence a persons weight

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Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Health of the Grey Bruce Health Unit endorse the 2004 Chief Medical Officer of Health Report Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives by Dr. Sheela Basrur Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, and

Furthermore be it resolved that the Board of Health of the Grey Bruce Health Unit write to the Premier of Ontario, to request the government implement the proposed Recommendations for Action which supports comprehensive, multi-level, multi-sectoral strategies to create environments that will promote healthy weights and healthy living , and

Furthermore be it resolved that copies of this letter be forwarded to our local Member of Parliament (MP), Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Minister of Education, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, all Medical Officers of Health, and all Board of Health Chairpersons, and

Furthermore be it resolved that the Board of Health of the Grey Bruce Health Unit recommends that the provincial government take a lead as the catalyst for the implementation of this report and support the required funding for the recommendations outlined in “Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives”.

Carried.

Your immediate attention to this matter is requested.

Yours truly,

Original Signed By:

Hazel Lynn, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/st

cc: Larry J. Miller, MP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
The Honourable Gerard Kennedy, Minister of Education
The Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation
Bill Murdoch, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
John Tory, MPP Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey
Carol Mitchell, MPP Huron-Bruce
Jim Wilson, MPP Simcoe-Grey
Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Boards of Health, Chairs
Ontario Medical Officers of Health
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Ontario Public Health Association