



Sudbury & District

**Health Unit**

Service de  
santé publique

*Make it a  
Healthy  
Day!*

*Visez Santé  
dès  
aujourd'hui!*

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March 8, 2006

*Electronic Mail*

Ontario Boards of Health

Dear Ontario Boards of Health:

**RE: Ontario Public Health Association Report on School Buses, Air  
Pollution and Children's Health**

On February 16, 2006, the Sudbury & District Board of Health considered a report (released in November, 2005) from the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) examining children's exposure to air pollutants from school buses and recommending that actions be taken nationally, provincially and locally to reduce these exposures. The full OPHA Report can be found online at <http://www.opha.on.ca/resources/schoolbus.pdf>.

The Board of Health adopted the recommendations contained in the report and acknowledged relevant local efforts to improve air quality. The following motion was carried:

*WHEREAS in November 2005, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) released School Buses Air Pollution and Children's Health: Improving Children's Health & Local Air Quality by Reducing School Bus Emissions which recommended federal and provincial government and local school board action to reduce the level of childhood exposure to diesel-related air pollutants; and*

*WHEREAS childhood exposure to such pollutants is associated with a broad spectrum of acute and chronic health impacts, including the exacerbation of the frequency and severity of asthma attacks, an important chronic illness estimated to affect 17% of children aged 0-6 years in the SDHU catchment area (Northern Ontario Perinatal & Child Health Survey, 2002);*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health endorse the recommendations in the OPHA School Bus Report; and*

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*FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Health Unit continue to work collaboratively with local environmental and community groups, such as EarthCare Sudbury and Clean Air Sudbury, to improve the air quality in the Sudbury & District Health Unit area; and*

*FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Ontario Boards of Health, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment, Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the Ontario School Bus Association, all area school boards for their respective endorsement and action.*

Improving air quality, particularly as it relates to children's health, is an important responsibility that many organizations carry. It is the Board's hope that its endorsement of the OPHA report will stimulate further local and provincial/national action to protect the health of children.

Thank you for considering how your agency can further this work.

Yours sincerely,

*Original signed by*

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

c: Canadian Public Health Association  
Ontario Public Health Association  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment  
Minister of the Environment of Canada  
Minister of the Environment of Ontario  
Ontario School Bus Association  
Rainbow District School Board  
Sudbury Catholic District School Board  
Le Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario  
Le Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario

PS/MK:sr