

HE-D1-1

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

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Ontario
Regional Municipality of Peel
Office of the Regional Chair

MAY 24 2011

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2011

Mr. Emil Kolb
The Regional Municipality of Peel
Executive Office
10 Peel Centre Drive
Brampton, Ontario
L6T 4B9

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
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Peel Living	

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Thank you for your letter regarding funding for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program of Peel Public Health. I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to giving children the best possible start in life and our parent and child development programs play an important part in helping us meet that commitment. As you are aware, Dr. Charles Pascal has been working as an advisor to me in helping to create a seamless and integrated system which will support children to succeed in school and throughout life.

During this developmental phase, we will continue to strengthen our early years programs. The Ministry of Children and Youth Service recently announced changes to Healthy Babies Healthy Children that will strengthen the universal screening and ensure that the most vulnerable families are referred to services more quickly. Those changes are:

- o A new, more detailed and evidence-based screening tool. The new screen will continue to be universal and will enable program staff to identify and therefore support vulnerable families more quickly;
- o A streamlined Healthy Babies Healthy Children screening process that will eliminate the need for the current multiple screens administered to families prior to receiving home visiting. The existing post-partum phone call and home visit will no longer be a requirement of the program;
- o An information package for new parents.
- o Strengthened home visiting through training and the introduction of province-wide best practice guidelines; and
- o The option for public health units to include a social worker on the Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visiting team.

REFERRAL TO _____
 RECOMMENDED _____
 DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

.../cont'd

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The Healthy Babies Healthy Children enhancements were outlined to local program directors and managers at a meeting on January 20-21, 2011 and followed by a memo to Medical Officers of Health on March 22, 2011.

It is our aim to continue to engage Public Health Units as changes to the program are implemented. To seek input of Healthy Babies Healthy Children staff, we have developed several workgroups with health unit representation. We are committed to working collaboratively with health units to support effective delivery of services.

Thank you again for writing. I look forward to working together to strengthen our early years programs for young Ontarians and their families.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurel Broten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurel Broten
Minister

c: The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education



HE-D1-3

Office of the Chair

February 22, 2011

Resolution No. 2011-27

The Honourable Laurel Broten
Minister of Children and Youth Services
56 Wellesley St. W., 14th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Broten:

Subject: Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding Update

I am writing to advise that Peel Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on January 13, 2011:

“That the Ministers of Education and Children and Youth Services be requested to clarify the Government’s plans for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program as a component of Ontario’s Early Learning and Child Care Investment Initiative”.

On behalf of Peel Regional Council, I am writing to draw your attention to your Government’s Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program and the challenges we face as a Region in delivering its mandate.

As a component of Ontario’s Early Learning and Child Care Investment Initiative, there are concerns that core, foundational programs such as Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) are being eroded due to chronic under funding.

No doubt you are aware that HBHC is a prevention early intervention program designed to help children meet their developmental milestones. It helps pregnant women and families with children from birth to age 6 years. It gives families in Ontario the information and support they need to give their children a healthy start in life, and it provides more intensive services and supports for overburdened families with children, who may not reach their full potential due to risk factors.

From a health, education and economic standpoint, it is a positive investment in our future.

Since its inception, funding for the HBHC program has not kept pace with Peel’s population growth and complexity. A continued eroding of service has compromised key universal aspects of the program and leaves vulnerable families waiting for an unacceptable length of time.

We, as a Regional Council, believe strongly in providing the best possible start for our youngest of citizens. It is a belief that we know you share, however, our ability to ensure this best start is continually diminished by a lack of attention to the sustainability of programs like HBHC.

HE-DI-4

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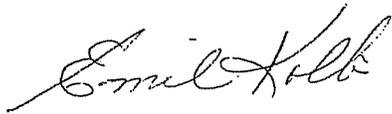
Resolution No. 2011-27

We ask your government for clarification regarding your Ministry's plan for HBHC as a component of Ontario's Early Learning Strategy and your plan to address the funding issues that are plaguing the HBHC program.

For your reference, we have included a copy of the December 7, 2010 Regional Council Report entitled "Healthy Babies Healthy Children Funding Update".

Also, on behalf of Regional Council, I request that you give consideration to the above resolution. I look forward to your reply. Please quote the Region of Peel's reference number in your reply.

Sincerely,



Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:tr

Encl.

c: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services
Dr. David Mowat, Medical Officer of Health
Anne Fenwick, Director, Family Health

Also sent to:

The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto Ontario
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