

June 25, 2026

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health/Deputy Premier
777 Bay Street, College Park, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Minister Jones,

Re: Endorsement of Public Health Sudbury & Districts Advocacy re: Healthy Smiles Ontario Fee Schedule and Access to Dental Care

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) is writing to share a motion passed by its Board of Health at its meeting on June 24, 2026, endorsing the resolution of Public Health Sudbury & Districts regarding the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Schedule of Dental Services and Fees.

The Board of Health continues to observe significant barriers to oral health care access for children and youth within the Nipissing and Parry Sound districts. Limited provider participation in the Healthy Smiles Ontario program remains a key challenge, impacting timely access to preventive and treatment services for eligible children and youth.

Access to timely dental care is essential to supporting healthy growth and development. Untreated dental disease in children can lead to pain, infection, difficulty eating and sleeping, and can contribute to avoidable emergency department visits and hospital-based dental surgery.

As outlined in the resolution from Public Health Sudbury & Districts, reimbursement rates under the current Healthy Smiles Ontario Schedule of Dental Services and Fees remain substantially below the Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for General Practitioners. This discrepancy continues to contribute to reduced provider participation and inequitable access to care across Ontario.

At its meeting on June 24, 2026, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit carried the following resolution #BOH/06/04:

Whereas, Public Health Sudbury & Districts has passed a Board of Health resolution calling on the Ministry of Health to increase reimbursement rates under the Healthy Smiles Ontario program to improve provider participation and access to dental care for children and youth; and

Whereas, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit continues to observe similar barriers in Nipissing and Parry Sound districts, including limited provider participation and resulting challenges in accessing timely dental care for eligible children; and

Whereas, untreated dental disease in children can have significant health and developmental impacts and may lead to avoidable use of hospital-based dental services;

To: Honourable Minister Jones

Page: 2/2

Date: June 25, 2026

Therefore Be It Resolved That, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit endorse the resolution of Public Health Sudbury & Districts calling on the Ministry of Health to increase reimbursement rates under the Healthy Smiles Ontario Schedule of Dental Services and Fees to align with the Ontario Dental Association Suggested Fee Guide for General Practitioners; and

Furthermore Be It Resolved That, this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA); the Ontario Dental Association; Health Unit Member Municipalities, and all Ontario Boards of Health.

The Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit respectfully urges the Ministry of Health to consider the actions outlined in the resolution in support of improving access to publicly funded oral health services for children and youth across Ontario.

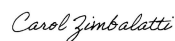
Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to improving oral health outcomes for Ontarians.

Sincerely,



[Rick Champagne \(Jun 25, 2026 14:31:59 EDT\)](#)

Rick Champagne
Chairperson, Board of Health



Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, CCFP, MPH
Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

/al

Copy to:

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
Health Unit Member Municipalities