

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES MERGERS

Mover: Matthew Shoemaker

Seconder: Corey Gardi

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recently announced a plan to merge various public health agencies across Ontario to reduce the total number of Health Units from 35 down to 10; and

WHEREAS the Province's proposal would see Algoma Public Health merge with the Sudbury Public Health Unit, the North Bay-Parry Sound Public Health Unit, the Nipissing Health Unit, the Timiskaming and Porcupine Health Unit and the Simcoe Muskoka Public Health Unit; and

WHEREAS details remain scant about the merger plan; and

WHEREAS the City of Sault Ste. Marie levies 25% of the Algoma Public Health Unit's annual budget and appoints half of Algoma Public Health's board of directors; and

WHEREAS the City of Sault Ste. Marie is concerned that a merger of health units may result in a reduction in employment in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, but no corresponding reduction in financial obligation by the City of Sault Ste. Marie to the public health of its citizenry; and

WHEREAS Algoma Public Health operates out of a new, modern, large, purpose built space on Willow Avenue in the City of Sault Ste. Marie;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE THAT the City of Sault Ste. Marie express to the Province of Ontario that, unless there is a reduction in the municipality's requirement to fund the public health agencies, it opposes the planned merger of the Health Units across Northern Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT should the Province of Ontario move forward with the plan to merge the Health Units in Northern Ontario, the City of Sault Ste. Marie wishes to house the offices of the merged public health unit in the City of Sault Ste. Marie at the Willow Avenue offices that currently house Algoma Public Health.