



Peterborough County
Administration Office

SEP 17 2009 *JK*

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August 27, 2009

Mr. J. Murray Jones, Chair
Joint Services Steering Committee
City of Peterborough
500 George Street N.
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit to request that the Peterborough's Social Services department provide the Choose to be...Smoke Free program with \$6000.00 to fund nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) for eligible clients of the program for the period from August 1st, 2009 to March 31st, 2010.

As you may know, individuals with lower socioeconomic status are at a higher risk of smoking and the unequal smoking rate suggests the need for targeting these individuals (*Tobacco Use Report*, 2009). These individuals have limited access to effective treatment such as NRT, which have been shown to approximately double the long term abstinence rates over those produced by placebo interventions (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 2000). Schmelzle, Rosser, Birtwhistle's recent clinical review (2008) recommended that all smokers who are trying to quit should be offered both pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic smoking cessation therapies.

On March 25th, 2009, the Medical Officer of Health approved a medical directive to provide eligible clients of the Choose to be...Smoke Free program with free NRT. Temporary funding for NRT was secured using 2008 year-end monies. Additional support was received with the donation of NRT samples from a pharmaceutical company; however, these donations were close to expiry and do not provide long term support.

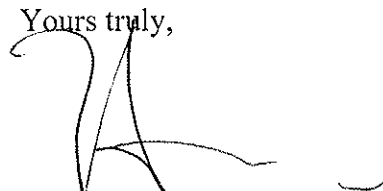
Recent provincial budget cuts mean that clients are no longer able to access the Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) study. This study has provided NRT to eligible individuals with insufficient financial means to purchase NRT over the counter. With increasing enrollment to the Choose to be...Smoke Free program and the expressed needs of current clients, we anticipate a continuing need for subsidized NRT as a key component of our program.

Given the recession, and the increased demands for funding, the need for smoking cessation may not be assessed as a high priority. However, Peterborough data reveals that low-income residents suffer a greater burden of illness from chronic disease, including tobacco-related illness. Assisting with smoking cessation in low-income residents who are motivated to quit recognizes tobacco as the major cause of preventable death in Peterborough and prioritizes low-income residents for assistance.

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I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Clarke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry Clarke
Chair, Board of Health
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit

cc: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services, City of Peterborough