

September 1, 2017

The Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017 (Bill 148)

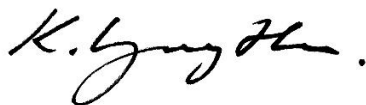
The Northwestern Health Unit expects Provincial Bill 148: Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017 will lead to significantly improved health outcomes for many residents in the region. As such, the Board of Health has shown its support of the Bill by passing a resolution (attached) at its August 28th meeting commending the provincial government for taking steps to improve income levels and working conditions.

Decades of research show that people with lower incomes have poorer physical and mental health and higher rates of mortality. The poorer you are, the more likely you are to have health risks in your daily life, and difficulties accessing adequate healthy food or affordable safe housing. It is estimated that the changes to the minimum wage outlined in Bill 148 will increase the wages and improve the working conditions of more than one quarter of Ontario workers.

The Bill, now under consideration by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, will move into Second Reading in September 2017, and must go through Third Reading and Royal Assent prior to the proposed implementation date of January 1st, 2018. As the Bill proceeds, it is important to be aware of the potential health, social and economic benefits this significant piece of legislation may provide for local families, employers and the community as a whole. The attached Public Health Communique provides further details regarding these benefits and outlines the rationale for the Board of Health support for this Bill.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 807-468-3147 or email kyoungphoon@nwhu.on.ca.

Sincerely,



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