

**Whereas**, oral health is a vital component of overall health, and access to dental care remains a significant barrier for many low-income, marginalized, and vulnerable populations; and

**Whereas**, the Government of Canada has introduced the Canadian Dental Care Plan to improve access to dental care for eligible uninsured Canadians; and

**Whereas**, the Province of Ontario administers dental and social assistance programs, including Healthy Smiles Ontario, Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan, Ontario Works, and the Ontario Disability Support Program, which provide dental benefits to priority populations; and

**Whereas**, public health units play a critical role in supporting access to oral health services for vulnerable populations; and

**Whereas**, current coordination requirements designating the Canadian Dental Care Plan as the primary payer have resulted in unintended barriers to timely dental care for individuals who are eligible for provincial programs but are not yet enrolled in the Canadian Dental Care Plan due to administrative or systemic barriers; and

**Whereas**, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has brought forward a resolution calling for improved coordination between federal and provincial dental programs to ensure equitable and timely access to care;

**Now therefore be it resolved that**, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit endorse and support the resolution presented by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding strengthening the coordination between the Canadian Dental Care Plan and Ontario's dental and social assistance programs; and

**Further be it resolved that**, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit urge the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to strengthen coordination, clarify guidance, and streamline administrative processes to reduce delays and confusion for clients and providers; and

**Further be it resolved that**, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit requests that Public Health Ontario or the Ministry of Health facilitate or contribute to, the completion of a dental workforce analysis to inform policy decisions and guide resource allocation of publicly funded dental benefits; and

**Further be it resolved that**, this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Children, Public Health Ontario, Community and Social Services, the federal Minister of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), and Ontario Boards of Health for information and consideration.