

April 30, 2004

The Honourable George Smitherman
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2CA

Dear Honourable Smitherman:

Re: Privatization of the LCBO

The possible privatization of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario was discussed at the April 15th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. Our Board and Senior Staff fear the deregulation of alcohol sales has the potential to result in a negative impact on the health of Ontario residents.

Potential consequences of privatization of alcohol sales include:

- increased access to alcohol in the form of increased outlets and expanded hours of sales resulting in increased population consumption and probability of alcohol related harm to our community
- decrease in control of sales to minors or intoxicated individuals
- increased marketing and promotion of alcohol products and resulting exposure to youth.

As a result of these concerns, the following motion was passed:

that the Board of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit express its opposition to the possible privatization of the LCBO and concern over the resulting negative impact on the public health of our community in a letter to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and the Minister of Finance; and that this letter be copied to local Ministers and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and all Ontario Boards of Health.

I trust the concerns of our Board will be considered in the decision process regarding the deregulation of the LCBO.

Sincerely,

**G. Allen Heimann, MD, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health and
Secretary to the Board**

Cc: Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance
MP's, MPP's
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Boards of Health