



**Vision:** All children, youth and families thriving in a strong, nurturing community.

**Mission:** To maximize the capacity, effectiveness and cultural uniqueness of the child youth and family service system through collective efforts.

June 24, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Elliott:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Child Youth and Family Services Coalition (Coalition) of Simcoe County with regards to the proposed boundary changes that splits the territory of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), with public health services for the District of Muskoka provided by a regional public health entity that will also include Sudbury, North Bay, Parry Sound, Algoma, Porcupine, Timiskaming, and the northern portion of Renfrew. Public health services for Simcoe County would be provided by a regional public health entity what would also provide service to the population of York Region.

The Child, Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County fully supports the May 15, 2019 Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Motion recommending the full territory of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit remain intact and join with York Region to form a new regional public health entity on April 1, 2020.

The Coalition is made up of over 40 agencies and organizations across all sectors in Simcoe County which provide services and support to children, youth and families. The SMDHU has been an active and highly collaborative member of the Coalition since its beginning and has made very significant contributions to the Coalition and to the families that our members help to serve. In fact, in November of this year, Carolyn Shoreman, Director, Community and Family Health at SMDHU, was the recipient of the Coalition's 2018 Award of Excellence and has been a past Chair of the Coalition.

Representatives from the SMDHU provide knowledge and expertise on a variety of Coalition tables and we are concerned there is a risk of losing this level of participation with the proposed boundary changes which in turn could impact services for children, youth and families in Simcoe County. We believe in the importance of a Simcoe County focus which ties in to all the work that has already been done to build a system that works, the history, and connections and networks that are already in existence.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the boundary changes for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and in turn, approve the recommendation that the full territory of SMDHU remain intact and join with York Region to form a new regional public health entity on April 1, 2020.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Kimberley Greenwood  
Chair, Child Youth and Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County  
[www.simcoecountycoalition.ca](http://www.simcoecountycoalition.ca)

c.c. Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, SMDHU  
Carolyn Shoreman, Director, Community and Family Health, SMDHU

## **CYFS Coalition Member Agencies**

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle	John Howard Society
Barrie Police	Kerry's Place
Barrie Public Library	Kinark Child and Family Services
Canadian Mental Health Association-Simcoe Branch	La Clé d'la Baie en Huronie
Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County	Mackenzie Health
Catulpa Community Support Services	Morton Youth Services
Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka	New Path Foundation
Children's Treatment Network of Simcoe York	New Path Youth and Family Services
Community Connection/211 Central East Ontario	NSM LHIN
Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	Orillia Public Library
Conseil scolaire Viamonde	Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
County of Simcoe	Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
CSC Chigamik CHC	Simcoe County District School Board
E3 Community Services	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
EarlyON- Simcoe North	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
Elizabeth Fry Society of Simcoe County	Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions
Empower Simcoe	United Way Simcoe Muskoka
Georgian College	Waypoint Centre for Mental Health
Gilbert Centre	YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka
Gilda's Club of Simcoe Muskoka	Youth Haven