



Monday, July 29, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
College Park 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Elliott:

I am writing to you on behalf of **United Way Simcoe Muskoka (UWSM)** as it pertains to the proposed boundary changes that would split the current jurisdiction of public health service delivery of the **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)** into two areas, one aligned with the north, and one with York Region.

United Way Simcoe Muskoka fully supports the May 15, 2019 Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's motion recommending the **full territory of SMDHU remain intact and join with York Region to form a new regional public health entity**, on April 1, 2020.

UWSM works to improve lives and build communities by leveraging collective resources and mobilizing collective action to achieve the greatest impact. Our current investment strategy focuses on poverty reduction and inclusion. Our colleagues from SMDHU are integral to our work and active participants at all community tables, including the Poverty Reduction Task Group (PRTG), the Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH), as well as the Community Impact Standing Committee (CISC) of our Board of Directors.

Dr. Charles Gardner and his team bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our regional collaborative work around the social determinants of health and chronic disease prevention. We are concerned about the impact of proposed changes to our collective ability to reduce the incidence of poverty and to assist those struggling to make ends meet. We believe in the importance of a Simcoe Muskoka regional focus which ties in to all the work that has already been done to build a system that works, and reflects the history, connections and networks that are already in place.

UWSM respectfully asks that you reconsider the proposed boundary changes for SMDHU and in turn, approve the recommendation that the current Simcoe Muskoka boundaries remain intact and join York Region to form a new regional public health entity on April 1, 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Biddell".

Dale Biddell, CEO  
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c.c. Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and CEO,  
SMDHU