

alPHA's members are
the public health units
in Ontario.

alPHA Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
Organizations:**

ANDSOOHA - Public
Health Nursing
Management

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Society of
Nutrition Professionals
in Public Health

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April 23, 2015

SENT BY EMAIL

Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne
Room 281, Main Legislative Building,
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

Re: New Beer Framework

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health, and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), I am writing today with respect to the recently announced decision to make beer available in Ontario supermarkets.

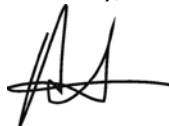
Consistent with our correspondence with you on this matter in the weeks leading up to the announcement, we are disappointed that this initiative is going forward. The preventable burden of chronic diseases resulting from increased access to beverage alcohol remains a concern for us.

That said, we are pleased to see that due consideration has been given to social responsibility by placing clear limits on this reform. The application of existing rules for alcohol retailing such as restricting hours of sale, ensuring minimum pricing, ensuring training of checkout staff and clearly separating shelf space within the stores are all important efforts in mitigating the risks.

As we move forward, we will continue to carry out our duties under the *Ontario Public Health Standards* to evaluate the impacts of alcohol consumption and to influence the development and implementation of healthy public policies pertaining to alcohol.

As our colleagues at CAMH have said, "an approach to alcohol policy that prioritizes public health and considers the costs associated with alcohol consumption is critical to our health and well-being." As your government implements the recommendations of the Premier's Council on Government Assets, we encourage you to keep health considerations at the forefront.

Sincerely,



Dr. Penny Sutcliffe
alPHA President

COPY: Hon. Minister Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance
Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hon. Dipika Damerla, Associate Minister, Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. David Mowat, Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health
Martha Greenberg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Promotion Division, MOHLTC
Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Public Health Division, MOHLTC
Mr. Ed Clark, Chair, Secretariat for the Premier's Council on Government Assets