

April 28, 2009

The Honourable Margaret Best  
Minister of Health Promotion  
777 Bay Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Best:

At its April 20, 2009 meeting, the Toronto Public Library Board was advised of the Ministry of Health Promotion's sudden decision not to extend funding for the Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) beyond March 31, 2009. At that meeting, the following motion was adopted:

*It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board communicates the Board's concern and disappointment regarding the loss of operating funding for the Consumer Health Information Service to the Minister of Health Promotion.*

For 16 years CHIS has provided standalone consumer health information and referral service to Ontarians from its base at the Toronto Reference Library. During that time, CHIS has supplied the residents of Ontario with valuable support in gaining greater control over their own health through access to health information. Access to health information allows public participation and choice in health care decision making. Also, CHIS has effectively supported health promoters in their efforts to assist communities in improving their health.

The decision by your ministry to discontinue this important source of health information to Ontarians at a time when people are particularly dependent on reliable sources of free information is regrettable.

Sincerely,



Matthew Church  
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

/nrm

c: Toronto Board of Health

### Library Board

**Chair**

Matthew Church

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Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler  
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