



October 1, 2010

Giving Nipissing-area Kids Healthy Smiles

McGuinty Government Launches No Cost Dental Care For Eligible Children

A new no-cost dental program is now available in Nipissing, which will help ensure that eligible kids can establish and maintain good oral health.

Accessing dental care for children can be a challenge for some Ontario families, particularly for those families without dental benefit coverage. The new Healthy Smiles Ontario program will ensure that kids can have regular visits with a dentist or dental hygienist. This program is anticipated to benefit about 130,000 kids throughout the province.

Administered by the Nipissing Parry Sound District Health Unit, the program will provide preventive dental care at no cost to kids who:

- Are 17 years and under.
- Are members of a household with an Adjusted Family Net Income of \$20,000 per year or less
- Do not have access to any form of dental coverage.

By making regular trips to a dentist or dental hygienist, kids will be able to prevent cavities and other dental problems that can contribute to diseases later in life. The program will give kids access to services like check-ups, cleaning, fillings, x-rays, scaling and more.

The Healthy Smiles Ontario program is part of the province's Poverty Reduction Strategy to reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over five years, and supports the five-year Open Ontario Plan to provide more access to health care services.

"This new program is great news for our area," said Monique Smith, MPP for Nipissing. "It is so important that we give our children the best start in life. Many in our area have been calling for this type of program. This program will ensure that children have access to preventive dental care when they need it most."

"Visiting a dentist early in life will help keep a kid's smile healthy for years to come. We know good oral health is an important component of good overall health, which is why I'm thrilled to be able to give eligible Ontario kids access to quality no-cost dental services," said Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

"We know from our recent Oral Health Report released in April, that access to dental care for many families in our district has been a challenge. The Healthy Smiles Ontario program is one step towards a solution. We are pleased the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recognized our needs and provided this funding," said Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health, Local Public Health Unit.

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Monique Smith, MPP

Nipissing

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QUICK FACTS

- Ontario committed \$45 million a year as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction strategy to improve access to dental services for eligible children
- Oral health diseases are more prevalent among people with limited or no access to dental services, and children are the most vulnerable.

LEARN MORE

Find out more about [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) by checking the website, calling the ServiceOntario INFOline toll-free at 1-866-532-3161 (TTY toll-free at 1-800-387-5559) or by contacting the Nipissing Parry Sound District Health unit at 705-474-1400.

Read more about the [CINOT](#) program

Read about [Nipissing University](#)

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