



Prince Edward – Hastings

Todd Smith, MPP



PETITION

TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS: The Health Protection and Promotions Act (R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7.) calls for the mandatory administration of erythromycin ointment as a prophylactic agent into the eyes of all newborns **and** specifies that the Health Care Consent Act (1996, S.O. 1996, c. 2, Sched. A.) does not apply to the prevention or treatment of communicable diseases of the eyes of the newborn.

WHEREAS: Research evidence shows that the administration of erythromycin is ineffective at preventing infection^{1,2}.

WHEREAS: The Canadian Paediatric Society ¹ and the Association of Ontario Midwives² call for the rescinding of the mandatory ocular prophylaxis laws.

We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That the Health Protection and Promotion Act be amended to remove the forced administration of ophthalmic ointment.

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¹ Canadian Pediatric Society Position Statement "Preventing Ophthalmia Neonatorum" (March 2015)

² Association of Ontario Midwives Position Statement "Informed Choice and Neonatal Eye Prophylaxis" (November 2012)