

Board of Health Manual Public Health Sudbury & Districts Information Sheet

Category

Public Health System

Section

Provincial

Subject

Ministry of Health and Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health

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Information

The Ministry of Health is the provincial government body to whom health units are primarily responsible. It is charged with the responsibility of administering such legislation as the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (1990)*, the *Health Insurance Act (1990)*, the *Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act (2004)*, and the *Public Hospitals Act (1990)* *Immunization of School Pupils Act (1990)*.

The role of the Ministry of Health in the organization and operation of health units is well established in the Health Protection and Promotion Act, which defines its responsibilities, in regard to such matters as changes in health unit by-laws, financing, inspection, construction of facilities, etc.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health is the Ministry's primary liaison with boards of health and staff of health units. The function of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health is to promote good health, to monitor the health status of Ontarians and to control the spread of disease. It does this in part through financial support and expert advice to the 34 local public health units or boards of health which conduct local

programs and, in part, by developing its own province-wide programs. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health is equally concerned with preventing disease, by measures ranging from better sanitation to vaccinations for school children and provides funding for local official health agencies in these areas.

As part of its mandate, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has broad responsibilities to support the Minister of Health. Furthermore, it is responsible for informing other branches within the government on public health issues, and liaising with other provinces, territories and the federal government regarding public health in Ontario.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of the Ministry of Health provides leadership and support to public health through:

- 1) The development of Ontario Public Health Standards and protocols for program delivery and consultative and education support to facilitate their implementation.
- 2) Support services to health units and corporate management.