

Board of Health Manual Public Health Sudbury & Districts Information Sheet

Category

Public Health System

Section

Provincial

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Public Health Ontario

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Information

In June of 2007 the provincial government passed legislation, the *Health Systems Improvements Act* that will make the health care system more responsive to the needs of the public by strengthening and supporting health professionals and the various programs and services that make up our health care system.

A highlight of the *Health System Improvements Act (2007)* is the establishing the first-ever Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario) – a centre for public health excellence that will provide research, scientific and technical advice and support.

Public Health Ontario (PHO) is a centre for specialized research and knowledge of public health, specializing in the areas of infectious disease, infection control and prevention, health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention, and environmental health. An arms-length agency, it supports the Chief Medical Officer of Health and provides expert scientific leadership and advice to government, public health units, and front-line health care workers. Its responsibilities include the provision of specialized public health laboratory services to support timely health surveillance, support of infection control and provision of communicable disease information as well as assistance with emergency preparedness (e.g. provincial outbreak of pandemic influenza, local outbreaks).