



**Public Health
Santé publique**
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

June 4, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am very pleased to share with you the Board's appreciation for the confidence you have placed in us for the tremendous responsibilities of the COVID-19 vaccination program. We take this responsibility very seriously and the Board is honoured to be leading a very successful local vaccination program. I am pleased to share the [May 20, 2021 COVID-19 Vaccine Infographic](#) that summarizes key progress locally.

Premier, a key element to our success that we wish to highlight for you is the tremendous community partnerships upon which our vaccination program is built. A distinguishing feature of the Ontario Public Health System is its longstanding close ties to local municipalities, First Nations and Indigenous partners, service agencies, schools, businesses, community agencies, clinicians, residents and more. It is thanks to these strong relationships built over years that Public Health Sudbury & Districts can "punch above its weight" and deliver an unprecedented vaccination program to area residents.

Examples are many and include municipalities that free up arenas, modify bus routes and staff-up call centres; residents who volunteer countless hours at immunization clinics; businesses who step up to partner with Public Health and even run their own clinics; school boards who think out of the box to get their students in line for vaccine; hospitals who run joined-up vaccination clinics, local service agencies promoting vaccine among people who are vulnerable; Indigenous-led health agencies and First Nations health staff providing culturally safe environments for immunization... These examples and more are the bedrock of our effective work in local Public Health.

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The longstanding history in Ontario of local public health being grounded in community, combined with the Board's strategic emphasis on meaningful relationships, have made this possible. The result is a collective strength that is much greater than the sum of its parts and vastly improved opportunities for health for all.

As we tirelessly lead locally with our many partners, we very much look forward to emerging even stronger post-pandemic. We look forward to a Public Health System that remains grounded in community and committed to the power of collective action to improve health.

We thank you for your leadership and dedication to serving Ontarians—and the Board of Health takes this opportunity to highlight for you the critical involvement of the many partners to Public Health in the COVID-19 vaccination program. We know you share in our sincere gratitude to them for their unreserved contributions to the health of our communities—the health of Ontario.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Board of Health Chair

cc: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Helene Angus, Deputy Minister of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health