

Climate Change Awareness and Adaptation

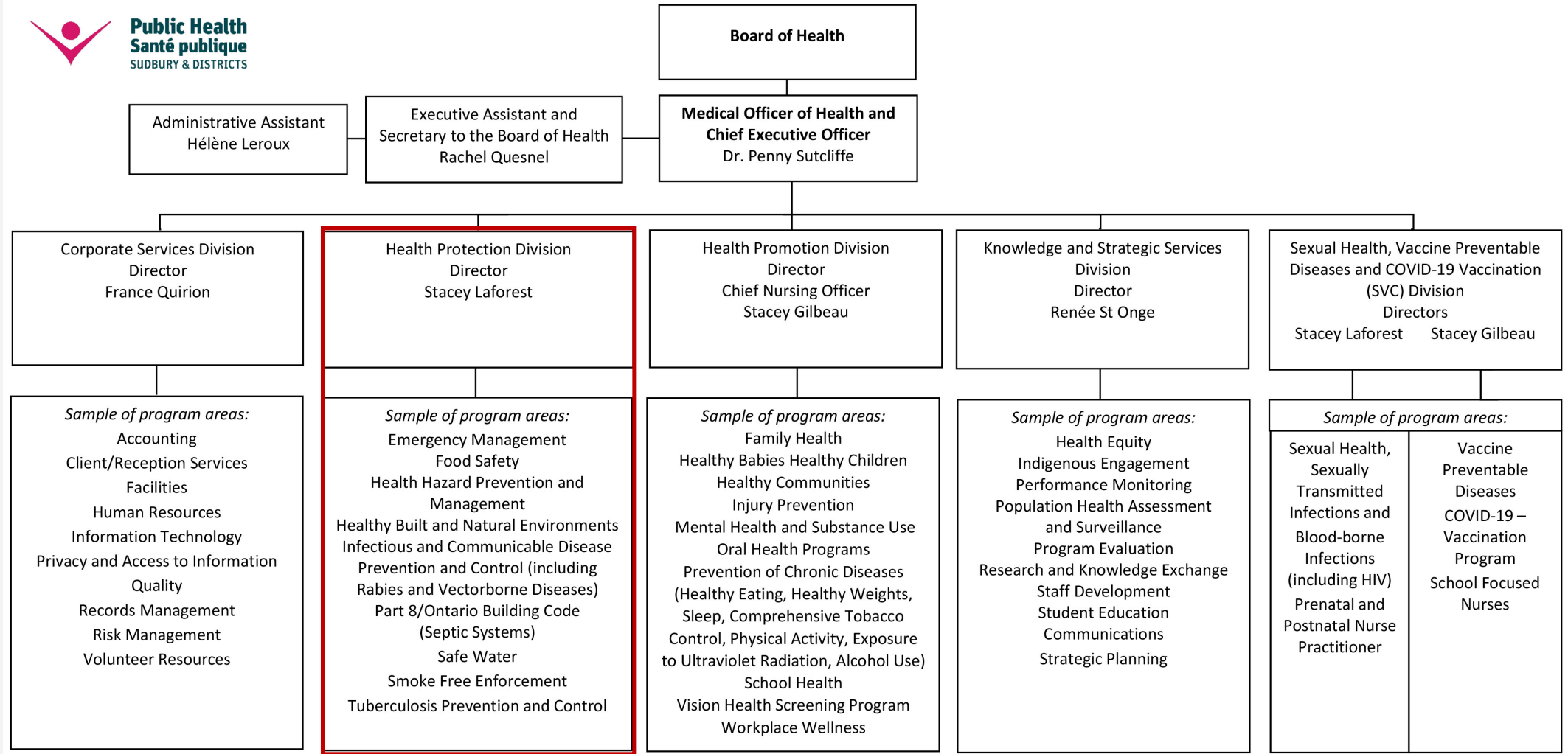
Presentation to the Board of Health

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September 21, 2023



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS



R: June 8, 2023

Climate change impacts are happening now

**“Healthier
communities
for all.”**



Significant health hazards of climate change:

- Extreme heat
- Freezing rain
- Storms, flood
- Vector-borne illness
- Wildfire

Climate change is increasing health hazards

Significant health hazards of climate change:

- Extreme heat is increasing. The number of days per year reaching 30°C+ will triple in the next 10 years.
- Heavy, intense rainfall and spring flooding are risks.
- Freezing rain will increase 60% by the 2050s.

- **Adaptive capacity:** the ability of the individual, population, or community to take protective actions and recover from setbacks.
- Those with more resources are better able to protect their health.
- Racism, violence, and oppression hinder adaptive capacity.

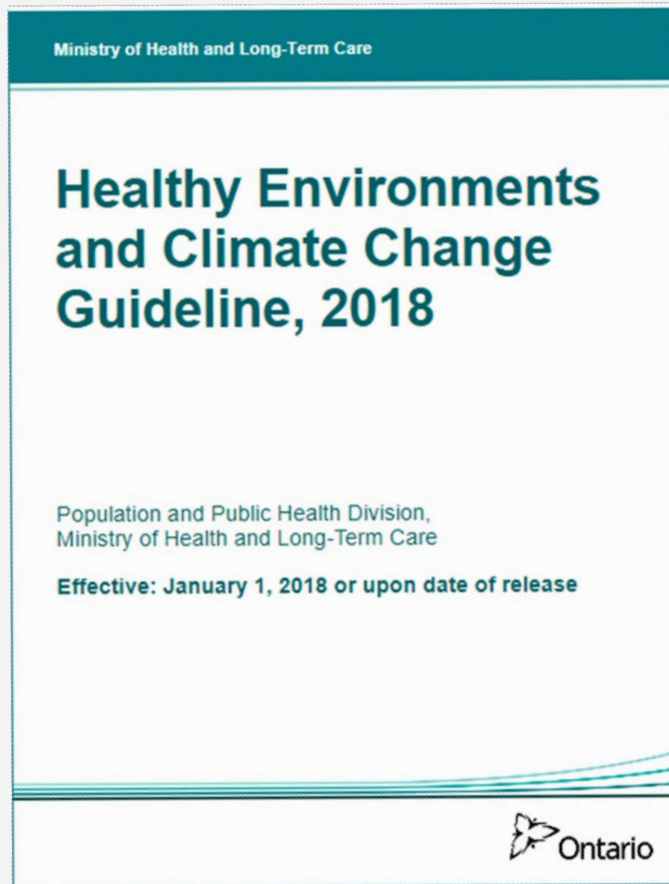
Climate change is increasing health hazards

Significant health hazards of climate change:

- Lyme disease and West Nile virus – the geographic range for tick and mosquito vectors is expanding northward, increasing risk for Lyme disease and West Nile virus.
- Wildfire – By 2040 in Ontario, wildfires caused by human activity and by lightning are expected to increase by 20% and 62%, respectively.
- Food and water-borne illnesses are expected to increase due to warmer temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns.
- Occurrence of blue green algae blooms may increase.



Public Health's role in climate change



- Assess health risks and conduct hazard surveillance
- Raise awareness and promote health protective actions
- Collaborate with municipalities and partners in climate change adaptation and mitigation

Adaptation in Action!

1. Assess health risk and conduct hazard surveillance
2. Raise awareness, promote health protective actions
3. Collaborate with municipalities and partners on climate change adaptation and mitigation

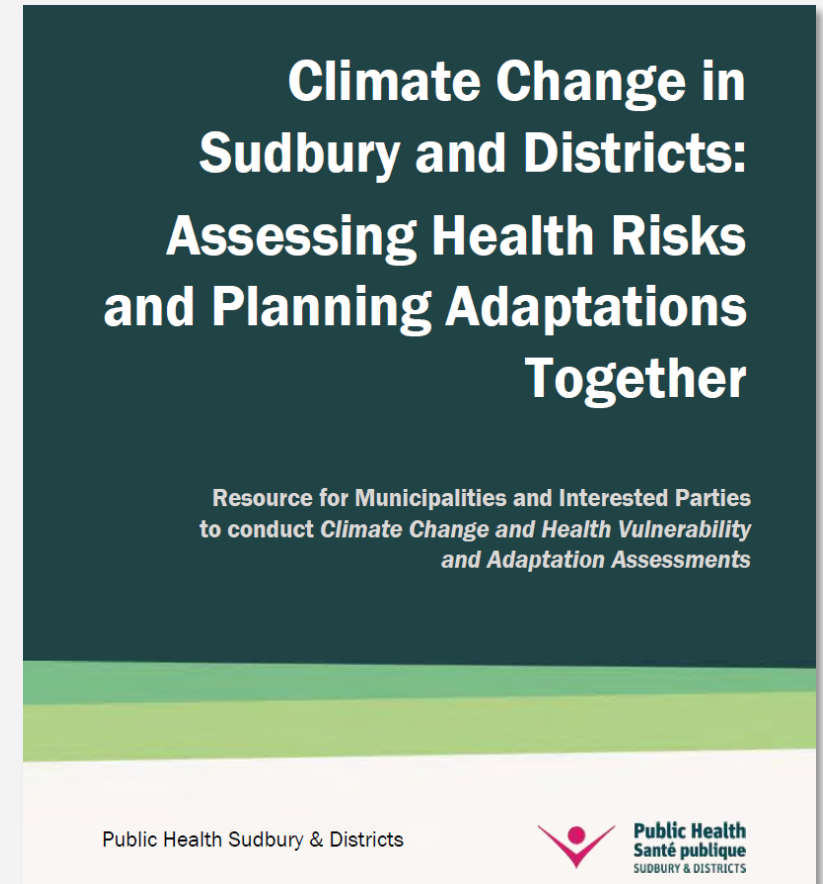


Assess risk, hazard surveillance and health protective response

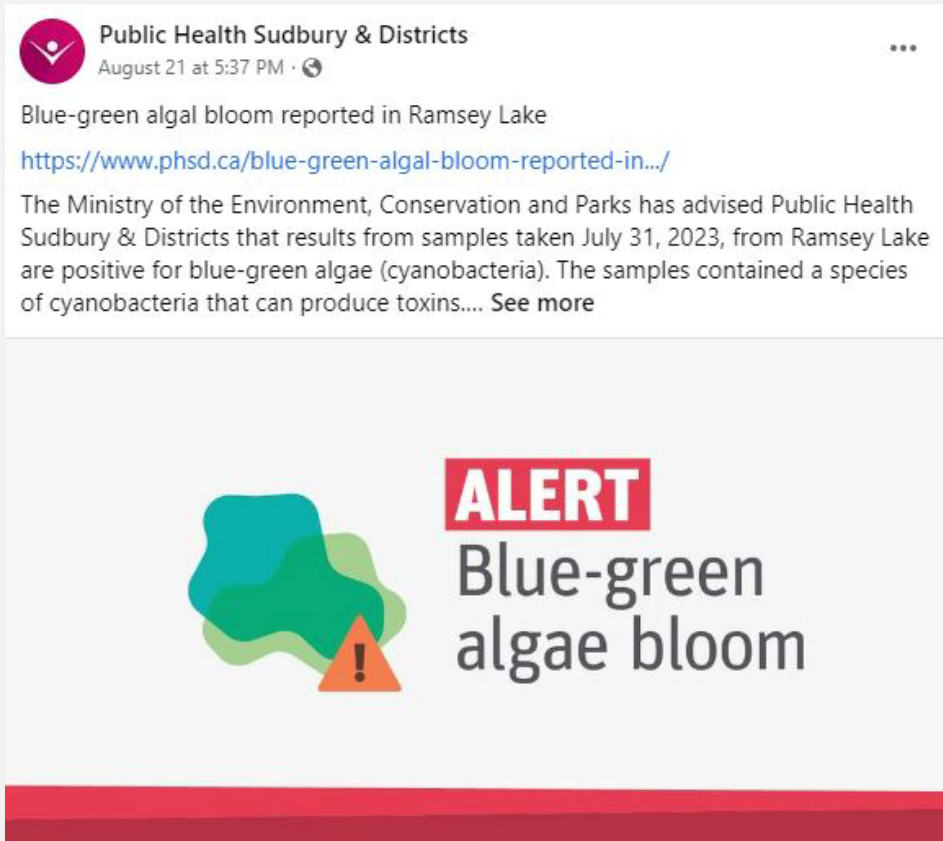
- Release of report assessing local health risks of climate change

Across service area, surveillance and response to climate hazards, such as:

- Heat warnings
- Special air quality statements (wildfire smoke)
- Weather events triggering emergency
- Reportable vector-borne diseases (Lyme disease, West Nile virus, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan virus)
- Public beach water quality (bacteria levels, blue green algae)




Raise awareness, promote health protective actions



Public Health Sudbury & Districts
August 21 at 5:37 PM · 🌐

Blue-green algal bloom reported in Ramsey Lake
<https://www.phsd.ca/blue-green-algal-bloom-reported-in.../>

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has advised Public Health Sudbury & Districts that results from samples taken July 31, 2023, from Ramsey Lake are positive for blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). The samples contained a species of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins.... [See more](#)



ALERT
Blue-green
algae bloom

- Social media and news releases on heat illness, sun safety, air quality, vector-borne illness, flood, emergency preparedness, blue-green algae, food safety
- Radio, television, newspapers
- Target information sharing about climate health hazards to:
 - operators that work with higher risk populations
 - leadership at municipal and provincial levels, including candidates

Collaborate with municipalities and partners

- Climate change resource shared with 18 municipalities and 13 First Nation Communities
- Ontario's Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System
- Blue green algae response, erecting signs at beaches and public communications
- Local Food Manitoulin
- Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Food Systems Work Group

In City of Greater Sudbury, contribute to:

- Municipal Hot Weather Response Plan
- Community Energy Emission Plan Communications Working Group
- Community Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Rainbow School Board active school travel planning
- Rainbow Routes Board of Directors
- Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council, Food Insecurity CGS

Building resilience in priority populations



- Youth Wellness Hub
- Harvest Pride
- Invisible No More health study and digital stories (2022)
- Improving community service navigation for older adults
- Sudbury Local Immigration Partnership
- Northern Ontario French Immigration Network
- Allyship training in person and online at <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/health-equity/racial-equity/partnering-to-address-racism/>

Building resilience in priority populations



- Awareness and advocacy for benefits of basic income and paid sick days
- CGS housing supply strategy
- CGS Homelessness Sector Front-Line check-ins
- PHSD building is inclusive and welcoming
- Staff capacity building:
 - 2SLGBTQ+ foundations and inclusive organizations
 - Black history
 - Anti-black racism
 - Indigenous history
 - Truth and Reconciliation

Collectively building climate resilience

Public Health builds climate resilience in partnerships and independently, by:

- Supplying knowledge on climate change impacts
- Conducting surveillance of hazards
- Protecting residents through hazard response
- Raising public awareness of hazards and health protective actions
- Participating in adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Building adaptive capacity in priority populations



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