

Provincial Announcements Regarding Changes to the Public Health System: *Public Health Strengthening*

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September 21, 2023

Board of Health Meeting



Public Health
Santé publique
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

Operating in Uncertain Times – *Public Health* *Strengthening*

Goal

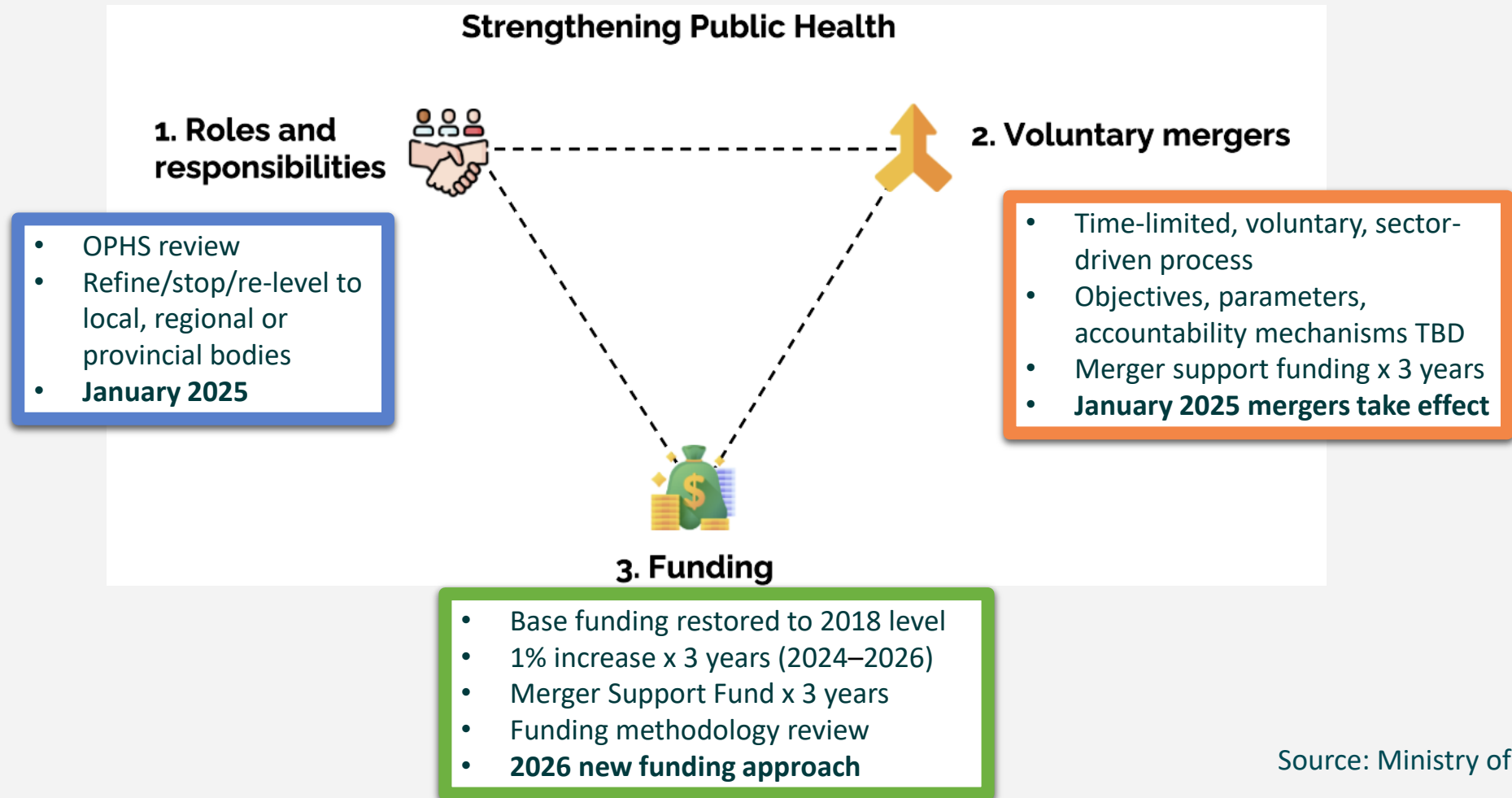
To **optimize capacity, stability and sustainability** in public health and deliver **more equitable health outcomes** for Ontarians:

Desired Outcomes

1. Clarified and refined **public health roles and responsibilities** that result in:
 - Stronger connections to and relationships with key health system stakeholders (e.g., OHTs, primary care).
 - Core public health functions being performed either locally, regionally, or provincially, informed by a prioritization framework.
 - Reduced variability in prioritization and decision-making and public communications (especially during crises) while remaining responsive to local needs.
2. A system that has **fewer LPHAs but with greater capacity** to deliver **core public health services** and **better alignment** with broader health system structures.
3. Stability for the sector and **sustainability in funding for the longer term** to support program planning and consistent, more equitable program and service delivery.
4. Improved **frontline programs and services** to Ontarians at the local level.

Strategy

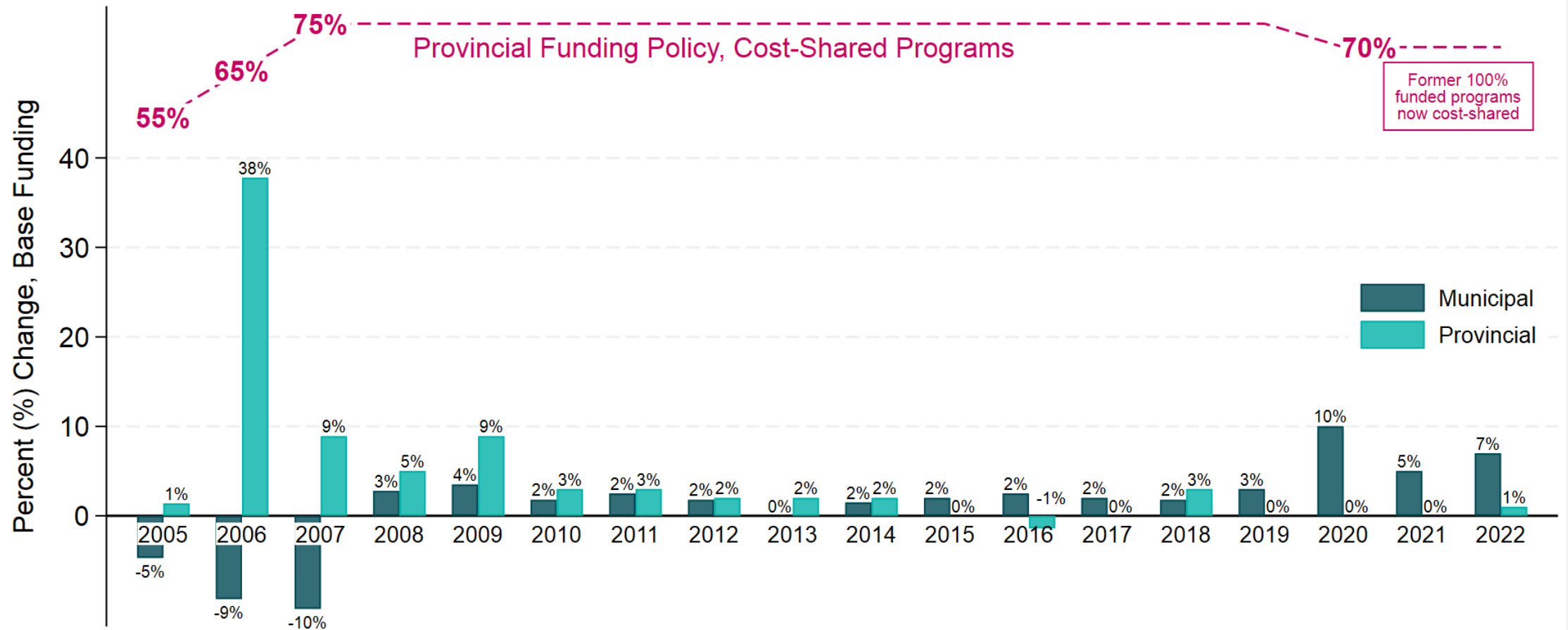
The Ministry of Health is proceeding with a **three-pronged, sector-driven strategy to optimize capacity, stability, and sustainability** in public health and deliver more **equitable health outcomes** for Ontarians.



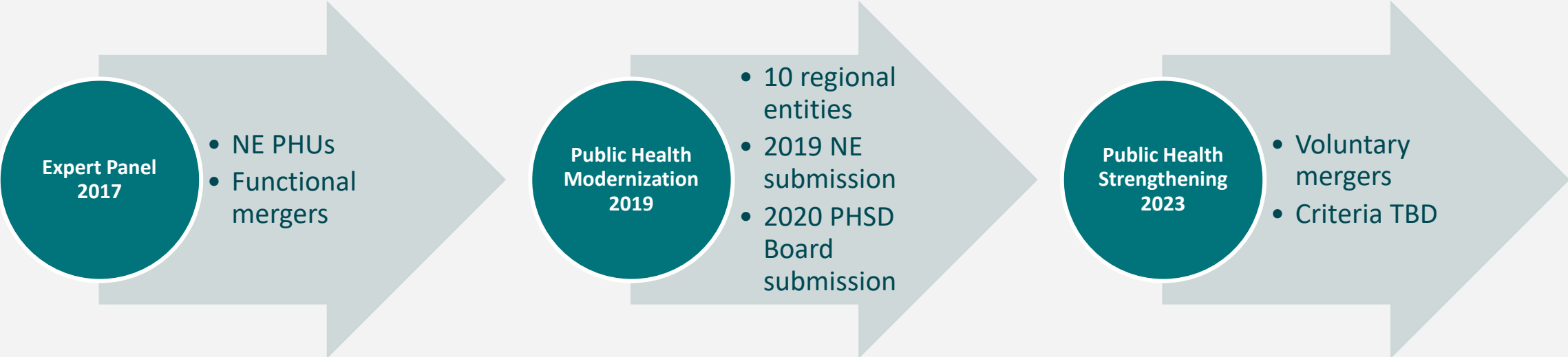
Source: Ministry of Health

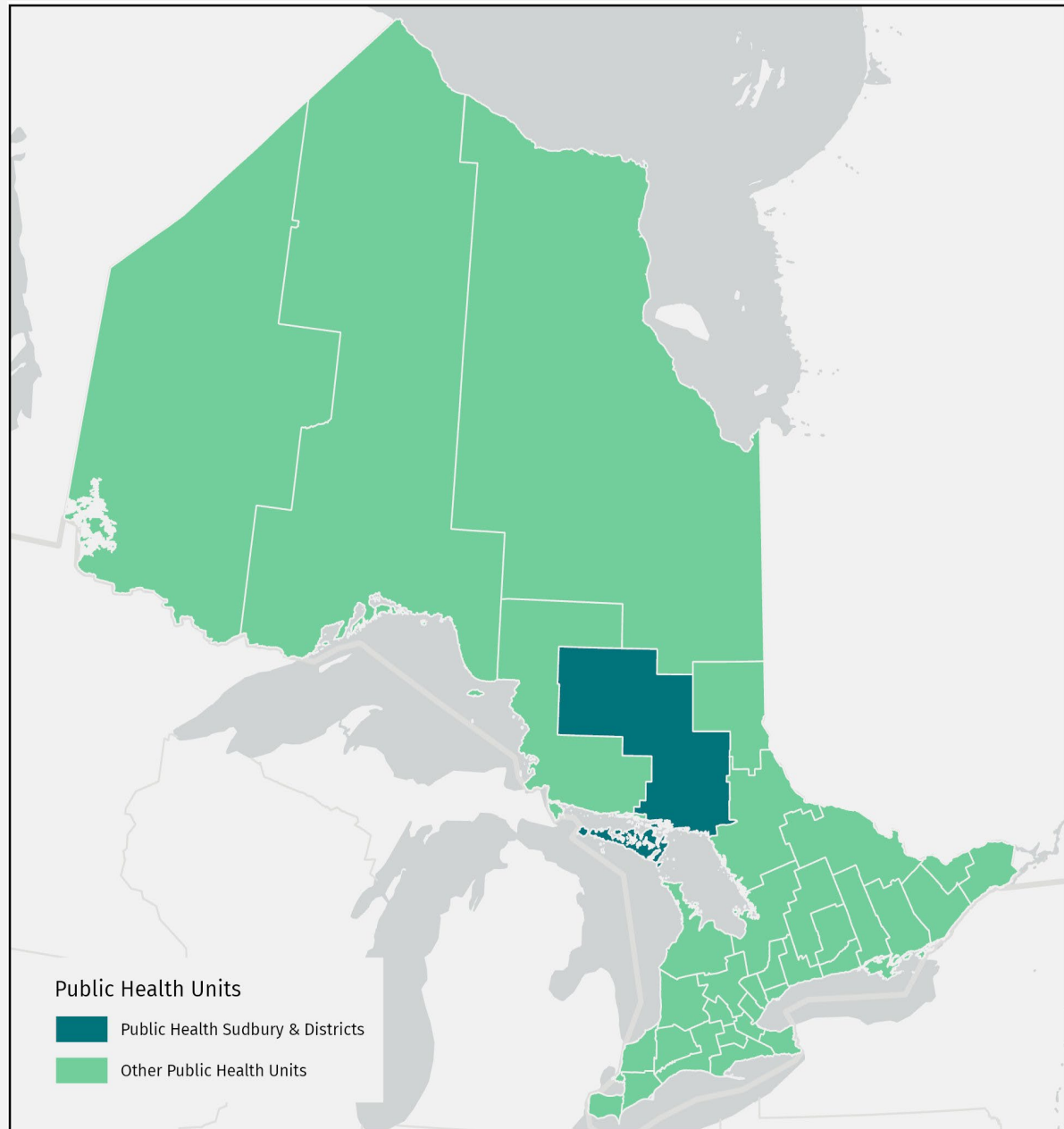
Year-over-year Comparisons

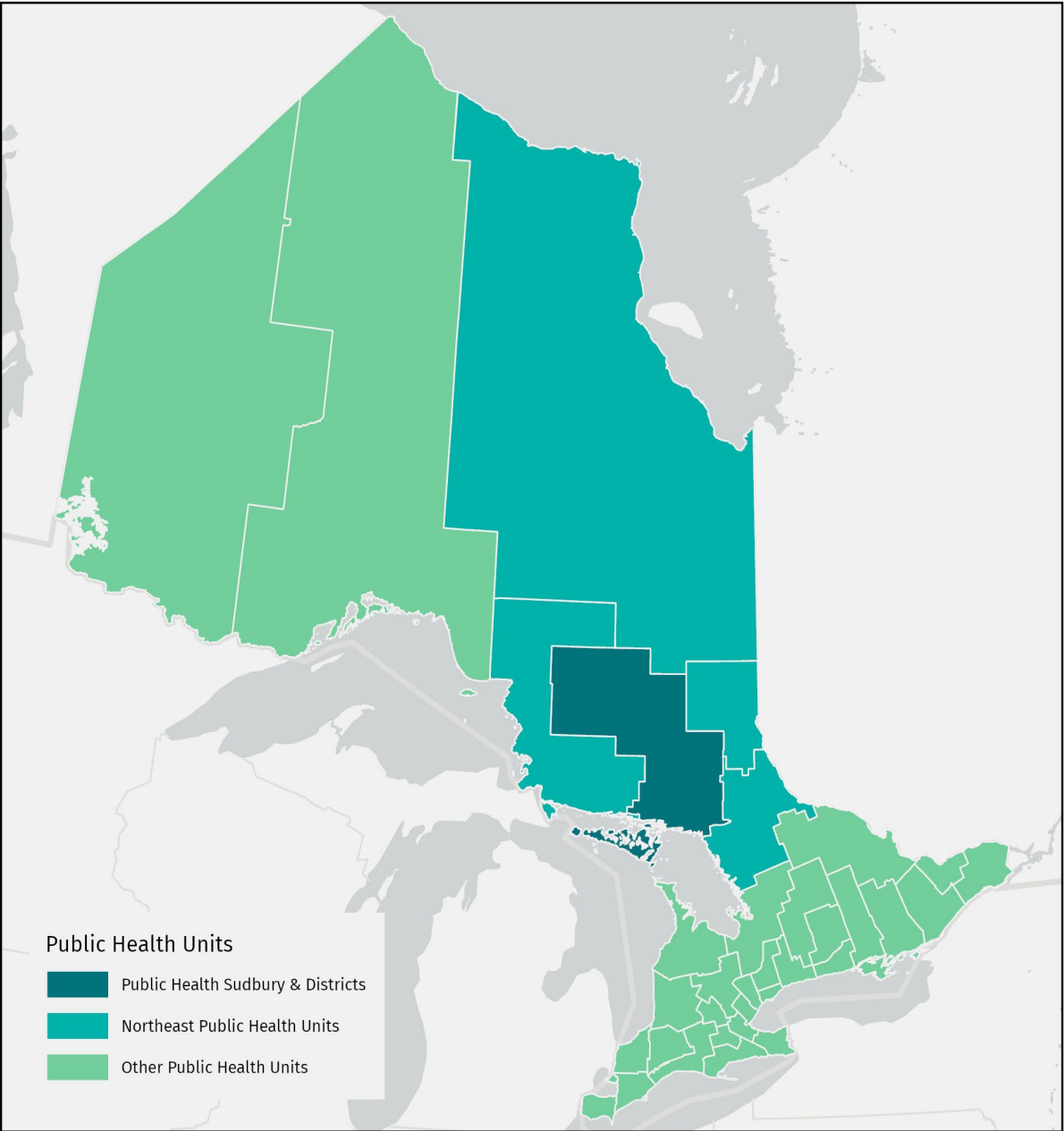
Municipal and provincial base funding changes

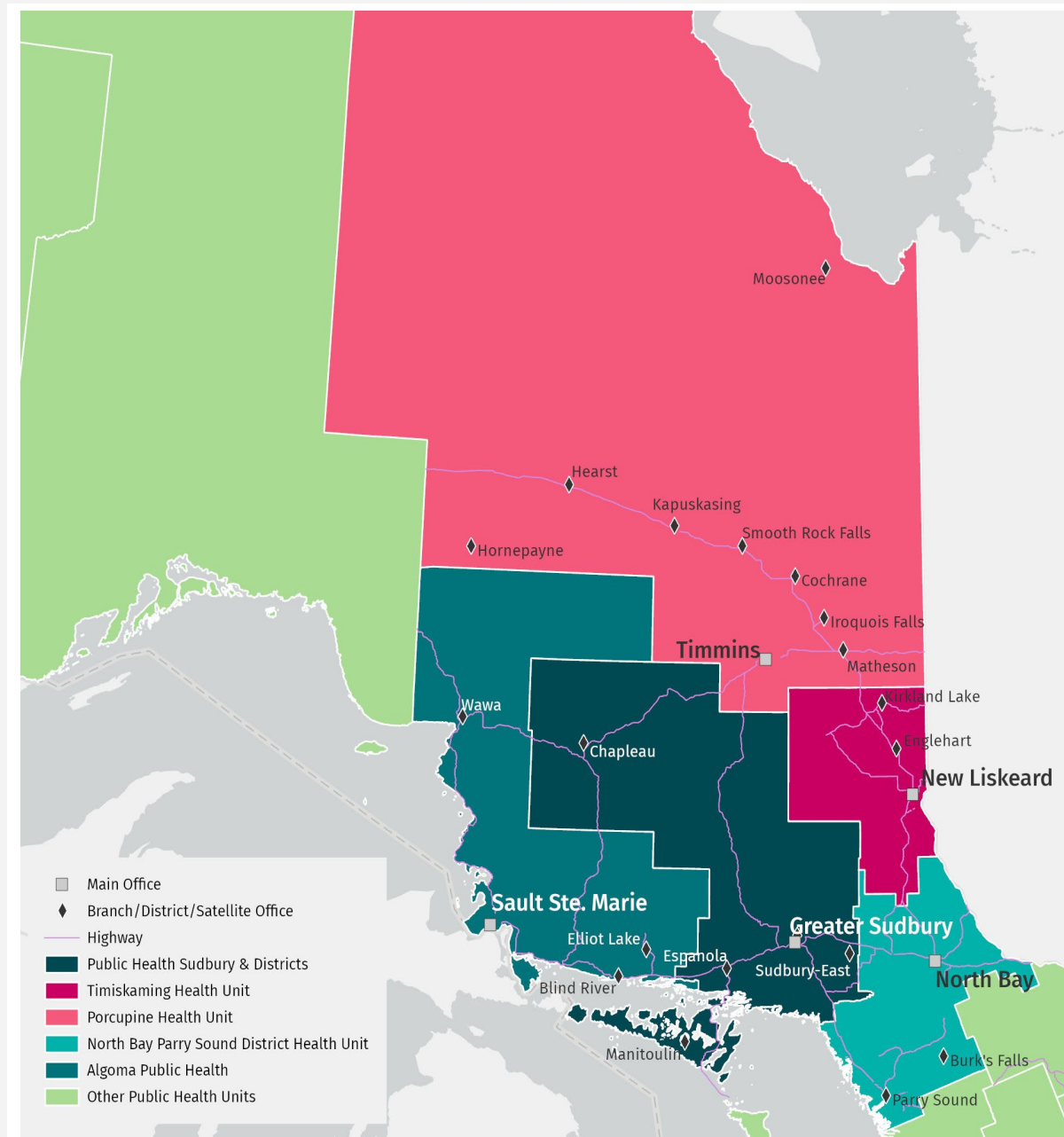


System Change/Merger Context



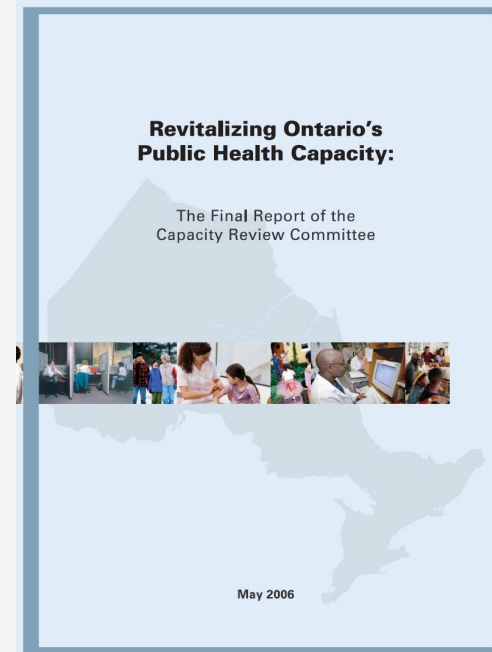






Governance for Local Public Health

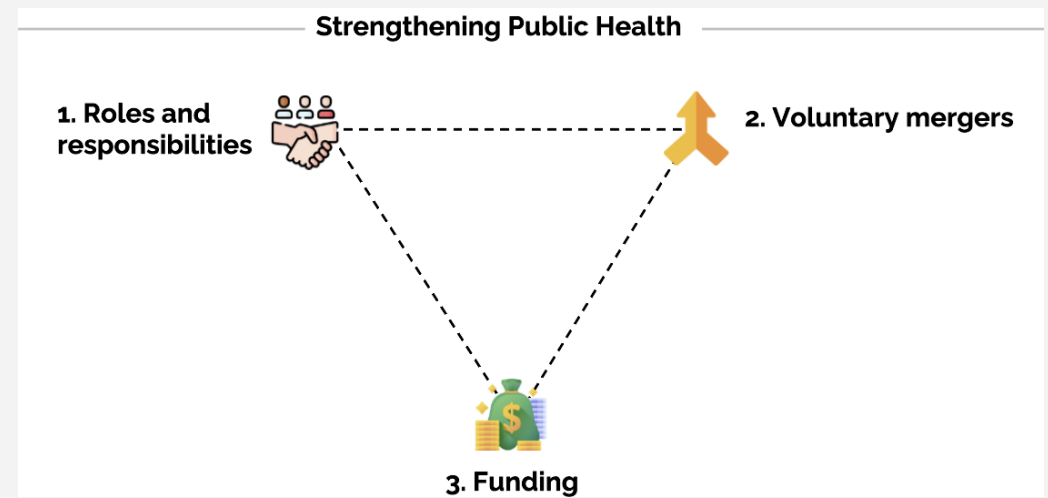
- **Autonomous (24)**
 - Staff operate under an autonomous BOH, separate from the municipalities (e.g. Public Health Sudbury & Districts)
- **Regional (6)**
 - Staff operate under the regional government which serves as the BOH (e.g. Durham Region)
- **Single-Tier/Semi-Autonomous (4)**
 - Staff operate under the municipal government which may fully or partially serve as BOH (e.g. Hamilton (fully); Toronto (partially))



RECOMMENDATION #19: Public health units should be governed by autonomous, locally-based boards of health. These boards should focus primarily on the delivery of public health programs and services.

Summary

- Significant changes to status quo
 - Roles
 - Structure
 - Funding
- Post-pandemic context
- Historical collaborations and leadership = strong foundation
- Opportunity to strengthen capacity to optimally serve local public health needs
 - Governance
 - Programs and services
 - Human and financial resources





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