



Addendum: Board of Health Meeting

Meeting # 06-23

Thursday, October 19, 2023

1:30 p.m.

Hybrid



ADDENDUM – SIXTH MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH
OCTOBER 19, 2023

7.0 ADDENDUM

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

i) Public Health System Strengthening

- Letter from Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, and Public Health Sudbury & Districts Board of Health Chairs and Medical Officers of Health to the Deputy Minister and the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, dated October 13, 2023

ii) aPHa Info Break dated October 18, 2023

October 13, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Dr. Catherine Zahn
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health
Catherine.zahn@ontario.ca

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister
Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Division
Ministry of Health
Kieran.moore1@ontario.ca

Dear Dr. Zahn and Dr. Moore:

We are writing on behalf of the Boards of Health and Medical Officers of Health for Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, and Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

We are respectfully seeking an in-person meeting with you in the North East at your earliest convenience and ideally prior to mid-November, on the subject of voluntary mergers of boards of health within Ontario's public health system.

Our Boards have respectively supported resolutions directing us to engage in exploratory discussions with our North East and neighbouring counterparts on this topic.

To this end, we met on October 6, 2023, and reviewed our respective Board of Health deliberations on restructuring to date, including submissions made collectively and individually in response to prior government initiatives on the structure of the public health system. We recognized that we have an excellent track record of working together at all levels of our organizations and that these relationships were further strengthened during our local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through these strong relationships and our collective work on prior public health restructuring, we believe that we have a strong foundation upon which to explore voluntary mergers as one approach to public health strengthening in the North East.

Our further deliberations and ultimate direction will be informed by consultation with you. We understand that voluntary merger parameters are expected to be shared before the end of this month.

Letter
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We are seeking an opportunity to discuss with you how such parameters might map to our Northeastern public health environment and best serve the public health needs of the people we serve. Of note, this meeting request is separate to the request from northern Medical Officers of Health for the CMOH to join a regional northern MOH meeting.

Thank you very much for considering this request and we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. *Please contact Rachel Quesnel, Secretary to the Board for PHSD who can assist with scheduling (quesnelr@phsd.ca; 705.522.9200 Ext. 291).*

Sincerely,

Electronically supported by

Luc Morrissette, Board Vice-Chair
Algoma Public Health

Dr. Jennifer Loo, Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Algoma Public Health

Rick Champagne, Board Chair
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

Dr. Carol Zimbalatti, Acting Medical Officer of
Health/CEO
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

René Lapierre, Board Chair
Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Public Health Sudbury & Districts

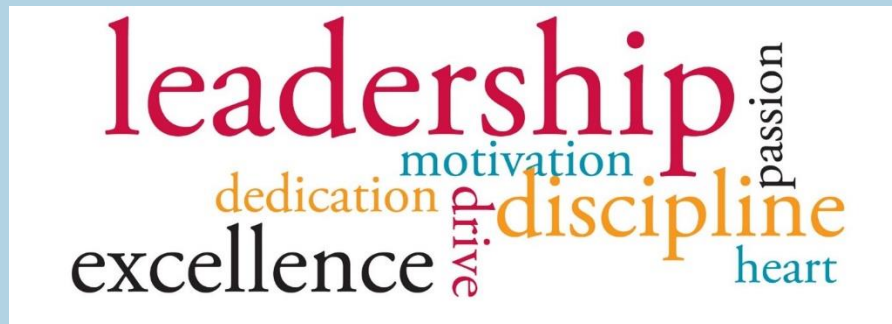
October 18, 2023



October 2023 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep alPHa's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPHa activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

Leader to Leader - A Message from the alPHa Executive Committee - October 2023



As we move further into fall, we know many of you are working hard on keeping our populations healthy during our annual, predictable respiratory disease cycle occurring in Ontario. We're encouraged for a better fall season as diligent work has been undertaken to improve upon last year.

Work continues on the Strengthening Public Health change initiative, collaborating with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The Ministry of Health has stated their goal is to enhance capacity, stability and sustainability in local public health and deliver more equitable health outcomes for all Ontarians. The alPHa

Board, with the alPHa Executive Committee taking the lead, continues to work diligently on your behalf. We're taking every opportunity to bring the perspectives of local public health — both staff and governance — to our colleagues at the OCMOH and the Ministry. Ongoing collaborations continue with key stakeholders who are similarly impacted.

alPHa celebrates its strong reciprocal relationships and two-way communications with key government officials and important stakeholders. Recently, alPHa representatives have met with Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health & ADM, Ministry of Health and his staff at several stakeholder meetings.

Thank you to Dr. Kieran Moore and Michael Sherar for their attendance at the alPHa Board Meeting on September 21, 2023. And an additional thank you to Michael Sherar for also attending the alPHa Executive Committee meeting on September 15, 2023.

alPHa's Fall Symposium and Workshops, taking place November 22-24, 2023, will have key events with a dynamic agenda, line-up, and meetings. This highly anticipated symposium will amplify the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system. Thank you to the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous support of these events.

With one unified voice, the alPHa Board and its communications continue to represent the best interests of Ontario's public health system.

Sincerely,

alPHa Executive Committee

Update from the Ministry of Health: Strengthening Public Health



The Ministry of Health has established a Voluntary Merger Key Informant Group, comprising public health sector leaders from a cross-section of Local Public Health

Agencies (LPHAs) and associations, including Board of Health members, CEOs, MOHs, municipal representatives, alPHa and AMO. alPHa representatives include Wess Garrod, Trudy Sachowski, Carmen McGregor, Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Dr. Lianne Catton, Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Cynthia St. John, Marilyn Herbacz, and Loretta Ryan.

The Key Informant Group was established by the Ministry on a short-term basis to provide advice on the development of the voluntary merger process. The Group has met twice so far to review draft outcomes, objectives, considerations and to provide advice on the merger proposal processes.

Information on the voluntary mergers process will be provided by the Ministry as soon as possible, likely the last week of October. It is recognized, however, by the Ministry that LPHAs may want to proceed with planning in the meantime and the Ministry encourages LPHAs to begin considering options and engaging in discussion with surrounding LPHAs in relation to possible future mergers, provided LPHAs maintain the flexibility to consider merger objectives and parameters when these are released.

LPHAs will be invited by the Ministry to submit proposals through the ASP process. The Ministry anticipates the proposal template will be released in December 2023 and due back to the Ministry in March 2024.

Register for the alPHa 2023 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops



Registration for the alPHa 2023 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops is now open! This event will amplify the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system. Registration is \$399 plus HST and you can register [here](#).

Join us for online plenary sessions with public health leaders in the morning followed by the BOH Section and COMOH Section meetings in the afternoon.

Attendees are invited, at no additional cost, to participate in workshops called: *How to Use a Human Rights Based Framework in the Workplace* from 1-4 p.m. on November 22 and the *Importance of Risk Communication in a Changing World* from 1-4 p.m. on November 23. Please note, the previously scheduled *Climate Change and Public Health* workshop will now be held during the 2024 Winter Symposium.

This gathering provides a unique opportunity to connect with public health leaders from all corners of the province. Together, we will delve into shared obstacles and strengthen the future of public health. Expect to gain access to invaluable tools and resources that will empower local public health and their communities.

BOH members, speakers at the BOH Section meeting include: Carmen McGregor, BOH Section Chair; Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa; James LeNoury, Legal Counsel, alPHa; Ian Cummins, Director, Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), Strategy, Ontario Health; Lindsay Jones, Director of Public Policy, AMO, Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, AMO, and Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO. **NEW:** Sabine Matheson, Principal, StrategyCorp has joined the speaking lineup.

For further details, [check out our flyer, Symposium program](#) (last updated on October 17), and [BOH Section Meeting agenda](#) (last updated on October 16). Additionally, the website has been updated with the latest content. Be sure to take a look at it regularly for updates!

**Association of
Local Public
Health Agencies**

**2023 Fall Symposium,
Section Meetings
and Workshops**

Hold the Date!



alPHA's Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and workshops will continue the important conversations on the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system.

On November 24th, participate in online plenary sessions with public health leaders in the morning, followed by BOH and COMOH Section meetings in the afternoon.

Attendees will also be invited, at no additional cost, to participate in pre-symposium workshops on November 22nd & 23rd:

- How to Use a Human Rights Based Framework in the Workplace
- Importance of Risk Communication in a Changing World

Registration will open in September (date TBD) and will cost \$399 plus HST.

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health



Hosted by alPHA with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Please note that you must be an alPHA member to participate in the Pre-Symposium Workshops, Symposium or Section meetings.



**alPHA Fall Symposium & Section Meetings
November 24, 2023**

*Draft as of October 17, 2023. Note: Meeting is hosted via Zoom Webinar
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - All times are Eastern Time (ET)*

<p>Public Health Matters Infographics and Videos We have a full program for the day and will be getting things underway right at 8:30 am! Attendees are encouraged to get started a few minutes early to check their internet connection, log into the Zoom webinar, test audio settings etc. alPHA's Public Health Matters Infographics and videos will play at this time and again during the morning break.</p>	8:15 am - 8:30 am
<p>Call to Order, Greetings and Land Acknowledgement Speaker: Dr. Charles Gardner, President, alPHA</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs <i>Invited</i> Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health <i>Invited</i> Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer <i>Invited</i> Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario <i>Invited</i> Professor France Gagnon, Acting Dean, Dalla Lana School of Public Health <i>Invited</i></p>	8:30 am - 8:45 am
<p>Update from the Chief Medical Officer of Health Speaker: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health Moderator: Dr. Charles Gardner, President, alPHA</p>	8:45 am - 9:45 am
<p>Reflections from Southwestern Public Health's Merger Speaker: Cynthia St. John, Chief Executive Officer, Southwestern Public Health Moderator: Emma Tucker, Affiliate Representative, alPHA Board</p> <p>After five years as a newly merged public health unit and adding in the largest pandemic response in a generation, Cynthia will share her reflections on the successes and on the challenges associated with developing a newly merged public health unit. She will cover the early days of how the Boards of Health connected to present day and learnings along the way.</p>	9:45 am - 10:15 am
<p>Break</p>	10:15 am - 10:45 am
<p>alPHA Strategic Plan Session Speaker: Maria Sánchez-Keane, Principal, Centre for Organizational Effectiveness</p> <p>Strategic planning is a process in which an organization defines their vision for the future and identifies the organization's goals and objectives. Join public health colleagues to learn more about alPHA's 2024 to 2026 Strategic Plan.</p>	10:45 am - 11:45 am

<p>Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA) Update (30 minutes) Speakers: John Allen, Partner, Allen & Malek LLP, and Dr. Robert Kyle, Chair, alPHA-ONCA Compliance Working Group and Steven Rebellato, member, alPHA-ONCA Compliance Working Group Moderator: Trudy Sachowski, Past President, alPHA</p> <p>alPHA representatives and legal counsel will provide an update on the changes to the current Constitution, as required, to transition to a by-law to come into compliance with the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010.</p>	11:45 am - 12:15 pm
<p>Lunch Break Take a break, grab a sandwich, and come back for an important update from PHO.</p>	12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
<p>Public Health Ontario Update Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Officer Colleen Geiger, Chief, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Research, Information and Knowledge Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Chief Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness Officer Dr. Samir Patel, Chief Laboratory Science and Operations Officer Dr. Tamara Wallington, Chief Health Promotion and Environmental Health Officer Moderator: Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, COMOH Section</p> <p>The development of Public Health Ontario (PHO)'s next Strategic Plan (2024-29) is well underway. Join Michael Sherar for an update on PHO's strategic planning process. This will be followed by a panel of PHO executives describing the services that PHO provides to local public health units.</p>	1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
<p>Section Meetings Members of the BOH Section and COMOH Section meet separately in the afternoon. Boards of Health members are asked to stay with the Zoom webinar platform. COMOH members will join a separate meeting. Agendas for these meetings are provided separately.</p>	1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

This event is hosted by alPHA with generous support from:



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(416) 595-0006 | info@alphaweb.org | www.alphaweb.org
Follow us on Twitter @PHAgencies

RISK

COMMUNICATION

in a changing world

Half-day online workshop for scientists and public health professionals

Apply real-world principles when you talk about public health and environmental risks

Presented by

RONALD W. BRECHER, Ph.D., DABT, CChem
Toxicology & Risk Assessment Specialist
rbrecher@rogers.com
riskpartners.ca

November 23, 2023
Virtual Workshop 1:00-4:00 pm

Part of the alPHA Fall Symposium

Stay tuned for more information
alphaweb.org

Presented by

TREVOR SMITH DIGGINS
Risk Communication Specialist
trevor@smithdiggins.com
riskpartners.ca

How to Use a Human Rights Based Framework in the Workplace

Human Rights



Lights, camera, action!



As part of the alpha Fall 2023 Symposium taking place on November 22-24, there is an opportunity to showcase recent videos from public health units from across the province.

Has your PHU posted a short public health video on your website or YouTube you'd like to share with Symposium attendees? The Symposium is an excellent opportunity to showcase and share your communications work on key public health issues!

Here's how to submit:

- Send the title and link to your PHU's video(s) to info@alphaweb.org
- Send only the URL(s) and do not send any video files.
- YouTube videos are preferred.
- Clips can be live-action or animated.
- Video(s) should be short and can be no longer than five minutes in length.

- Clips should be recently recorded (2023)/stand the test of time from when the videos were recorded.
- Variety is welcomed as we'd like to cover a broad range of public health topics.
- Videos must be from your PHU and not from another organization.
- Maximum of three (3) videos can be submitted.

The deadline to submit information on your video clip is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 10th. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Thank you to the public health agencies who have already responded. We appreciate your submissions and participation!

Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)



Ontario's [Not-for-Profit Corporations Act \(ONCA\)](#) is a significant legislative update that replaced Ontario's Corporations Act on October 19, 2021 regarding not-for-profit corporations including alPHA. The ONCA was introduced with the aim of enhancing the legal framework governing not-for-profit organizations in the province. It provides a comprehensive set of regulations, tailored to meet the unique needs of non-profit corporations, while promoting transparency, accountability, and effective governance. alPHA has until October 18, 2024, to review, update and file governing documents with the Government of Ontario. In April 2023, alPHA formed an ONCA Compliance Working Group comprised of members of the [alPHA Executive Committee](#) along with Dr. Robert Kyle as the Chair and Loretta Ryan as staff. The purpose of the working group is to review alPHA's current Constitution and, in consultation with legal counsel, make recommendations to the alPHA Board of Directors regarding changes to the current Constitution, as required, as it transitions to a by-law to come into compliance with the Act. The goal is to obtain approval of the By-law by the membership at the alPHA Conference and AGM in June 2024. Members of the ONCA Compliance Working Group will provide updates at the Fall and Winter Symposiums, and you can read more in the [Executive Summary](#).

Public Health Matters: A Business Case for Local Public Health now available in French

UNE QUESTION DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

Assurer la rentabilité en matière de gestion de la santé publique

alPHA
Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies
www.alphabeb.org

UNE ANALYSE DE LA RENTABILITÉ DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

La santé publique soutient la santé pour tous. Les agences de santé publique locales offrent des programmes et des services qui favorisent le bien-être, la prévention des maladies et des blessures et qui protègent la santé de la population. Notre travail, souvent en collaboration avec des partenaires locaux au sein du système de santé élargi, permet d'avoir une population en meilleure santé sans devoir puiser parmi des ressources en santé souvent dispendieuses et limitées.

NOUS DEMANDONS
Que les décideurs appuient les buts et les objectifs de la santé publique à l'aide de ressources soutenues et suffisantes pour assurer la stabilité du réseau d'agences de santé publique locales. La santé publique locale demeure essentielle à la fois pour la santé de la population ontarienne ainsi que pour la prospérité économique qui y est associée. La santé publique locale soutient le gouvernement de l'Ontario dont les objectifs sont l'efficacité, l'efficience et le rapport qualité-prix.

INVESTISSEMENT DANS LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE LOCALE
L'investissement dans la santé publique locale implique le rendement suivant :

RÉDUCTION DES HOSPITALISATIONS ET DES DÉCÈS
Les mesures de santé publique telles que la vaccination, la gestion de cas et des contacts, l'intervention en cas d'épidémie, le contrôle des infections dans la communauté ont permis de diminuer 13 fois plus d'hospitalisations durant la pandémie de COVID-19. La santé publique locale est également essentielle pour répondre aux nouveaux risques de maladies infectieuses telles que la mpox, à la réémergence d'agents pathogènes comme la poliomyélite et la tuberculose, et au retour d'épidémies saisonnières annuelles telles que la grippe et le virus respiratoire syncytial (VRS).

DES COMMUNAUTÉS SÛRES
La santé publique locale protège nos communautés en travaillant avec les municipalités pour fournir de l'eau potable, des aliments sains, ainsi que des mesures de préparation et d'intervention en cas d'urgence.

DES ENFANTS EN SANTÉ
La santé publique locale protège les enfants en favorisant une croissance et un développement sains, la vaccination, le dépistage dentaire et la santé scolaire.

Évaluation de la santé de la population | Équité en matière de santé | Pratiques efficaces liées à la santé publique | Gestion des urgences | Prévention des maladies chroniques et bien-être | Salubrité des aliments | Environnements

UNE QUESTION DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

alPHA
Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies

FINANCEMENT
La santé publique locale nécessite un financement de base suffisant et durable du gouvernement provincial. L'interruption du financement de redressement (46,6 M\$) de la province équivaldrait à l'augmentation des prélèvements municipaux de 14,76 % (316,7 M\$), ou à une diminution de 3,78 % (1,24 milliard de dollars) du financement global des programmes de santé publique locale. Un retour à l'ancienne formule de partage des coûts entre la province et les municipalités pour tous les programmes et services aiderait à compenser cette perte.

LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE PERMET DES ÉCONOMIES DE SOINS DE SANTÉ

La promotion de la santé et la prévention des maladies sont des rôles obligatoires pour les agences locales de santé publique. Ceci faisant, ces agences travaillent également avec le ministère de la Santé et certains intervenants clés de la lutte contre les maladies chroniques telles que le diabète, les maladies cardiaques et le cancer.

LES INÉQUITÉS EN SANTÉ DUES À LA POSITION SOCIOÉCONOMIQUE ONT CONTRIBUÉ À 15 % DE TOUTS LES COÛTS DES SOINS DE SANTÉ, SOIT 60,7 MILLIARDS DE DOLLARS

L'amélioration du tabagisme, de l'alcool, de l'alimentation et de l'activité physique pourrait éviter 89 milliards de dollars en coûts de soins de santé, soit 22 % de tous les coûts des soins de santé sur 10 ans.

La consommation d'alcool est un autre contributeur majeur aux coûts des soins de santé et soins sociaux. On estime que la consommation d'alcool coûte à l'économie ontarienne 5,3 milliards de dollars en soins de santé, en application de la loi, en services correctionnels, en prévention, en perte de productivité et en mortalité prématurée.

Une estimation fixe les coûts du diabète au Canada à 15,36 milliards de dollars pour le système de la santé sur une période de 10 ans, touchant près de 10 % de la population.

La promotion de l'abandon du tabac et de la lutte antitabac a réduit globalement les coûts des soins de santé de 1,7 %, soit 4,2 milliards de dollars économisés sur 10 ans.

SE RÉTABLIR DE LA COVID-19
À la suite de la pandémie de COVID-19, les agences de santé publique locales se sont efforcées de remettre sur pied l'ensemble de leurs programmes, des progrès étant réalisés face aux priorités de rétablissement (Public Health, Resilience in Ontario - disponible en anglais) et à la réponse aux virus respiratoires saisonniers.

Financement | Se rétablir de la COVID-19 | Promotion de la santé et prévention des maladies | Amélioration du tabagisme, de l'alcool, de l'alimentation et de l'activité physique | Consommation d'alcool | Coûts du diabète | Promotion de l'abandon du tabac et de la lutte antitabac

The latest infographic, which covers a business case for public health, is now available in French. It covers topics such as reduced hospitalizations, safe communities, and healthy children. To read more, click [here](#).

alPHA would also like to thank Eastern Ontario Health Unit for translating the infographic.

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

BOH Governance training course
Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

Social Determinants of Health training course
Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Speakers are Monika Turner and Loretta Ryan.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

Additionally, thank you to all the public health agencies who have shown interest in our BOH courses. ALPHA staff are currently coordinating the bookings and are pleased to see the uptake.

Improve your mental health with these tips



World Mental Health Day occurred on October 10 and alPHA marked the day by launching a new Workplace Health and Wellness infographic with mental health resources. alPHA's former Workplace Health and Wellness program placement student, Franger Jimenez, continues to be engaged with alPHA and created the infographic to help members better address and manage their mental health. To read more, click [here](#). Additionally, more Workplace Health and Wellness Resources for members to use are available [here](#).

Alcohol labelling meeting with Health Canada



The alPHa Executive Committee met with Health Canada on Friday, October 6, 2023. They discussed alPHa's support of [Bill S-254](#), as noted in our [recent Correspondence](#), which calls for warning labels on alcoholic beverages.

Affiliates update



Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL)

OPHNL is currently working with the Center for Organizational Effectiveness to develop a 5-year strategic plan. Our aim is to refresh our [current strategic plan](#) to meet the needs of public health nursing leaders across Ontario and create strategic alignment with the priorities of our interdisciplinary public health colleagues. The finalized plan will be presented to OPHNL members at our fall AGM on November 23, 2023.



Health Promotion Ontario

Health Promotion Ontario has released a [White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion in Ontario](#) and an accompanying [infographic](#). This paper outlines the critical role that health promotion plays in keeping people healthy and demonstrates the effectiveness of health promotion efforts from public health units across Ontario.



Ontario Dietitians in Public Health

ODPH, in consultation with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, has called on Health Canada to [recognize the historical truth of Canada's Food Guide](#). ODPH acknowledges that food has been used as a weapon against Indigenous peoples to disconnect them from their land, culture, language, identity and well-being. ODPH made a [submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#) focusing on sustainable food systems, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the future health of Ontarians.

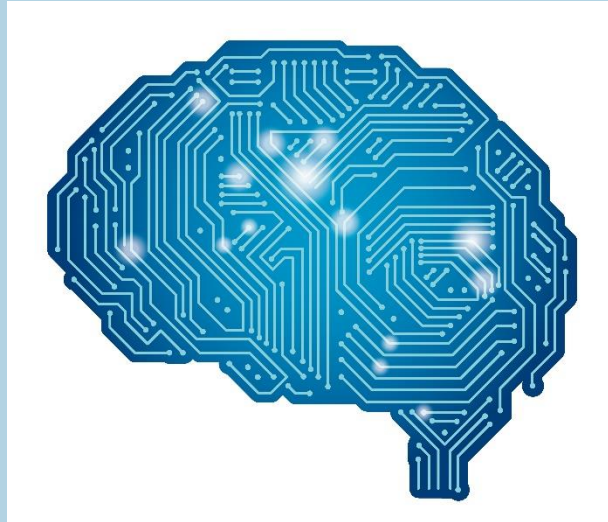


The Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario

ASPHIO has released the *ASPHIO White Paper: Highlighting the Vital Role of Public Health Inspectors within a Responsive and Effective Public Health Workforce* (link to be provided when available). The report highlights the crucial contributions made by public health inspectors during the pandemic, their importance in supporting the delivery of public health programs and services and the vital role of public health inspectors within a responsive and effective public health workforce. The recommendations in the report provide potential opportunities and solutions to

strengthen the public health workforce, and to build upon the adaptability and versatility demonstrated by public health inspectors during the pandemic.

Public Health and AI update



Innovations in artificial intelligence (AI) through the use of large language models (LLMs), machine-learning and natural language processing continue to be seen in public health. Given the mainstream use of applications like Chat GPT (Microsoft), PHUs should consider organizational policy to manage use of AI applications given the risks associated with privacy, reliability, confidentiality and plagiarism. While a collaborative approach in sharing policy framework on AI innovation and staff use should be employed by PHUs given similar risks and activities conducted under the Ontario Public Health Standards, health units should also review the federal government's [Artificial Intelligence and Data Act \(AIDA\)](#) to protect Canadians and guide organizational use of AI.

BrokerLink Insurance



In partnership with alpha, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer exclusive discounts on personal home and auto insurance to members. When you're shopping for insurance, you'll probably come across a lot of tips and information – but how much of what you read is actually true? Read our debunking common insurance myths [here](#).

Call for abstracts for TOPHC 2024



Do you want to help shape the conversation for TOPHC 2024? You can do so by submitting an abstract. **The deadline is October 20, 2023.** For more information on how to submit, click [here](#).

Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on alpha's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to orientation materials, best practices, by-laws, resolutions, and other resources. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library. Resources available on the alpha website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health \(Revised Feb. 2023\)](#)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018, \(PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023\)](#)
- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health \(Video, June 8, 2021\)](#)
- [Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001 \(Revised 2021\)](#)
- [Governance Toolkit \(Revised 2022\)](#)
- [Risk Management for Health Units](#)
- [Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview \(for Provincial Appointees to BOH\)](#)
- [Ontario Boards of Health by Region](#)
- [List of Units sorted by Municipality](#)
- [List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit](#)
- [Map: Boards of Health Types](#)
- [NCCHPP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System \(2021\)](#)
- [The Municipal Role of Public Health\(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)

alpha Correspondence



Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, alpha's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. Below is a submission that has been sent in since the last newsletter. A complete online library is available [here](#). This document is publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [alpha Letter - Strengthening Public Health](#) (to Dr. Kieran Moore)

Public Health Ontario



COVID-19, Influenza, RSV and Other Respiratory Virus Reports

- [COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)
- [Influenza Vaccines for the 2023-24 Influenza Season](#)
- [Antiviral Medications for Seasonal Influenza: Public Health Considerations](#)

Infection Prevention and Control Resources

- [IPAC Self-Assessment Audit for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Immunization Clinics](#)
- [How to Protect Yourself and Others from Respiratory Viruses](#)

Additional Resources – New

- [Fermented food safety guidelines](#)
- [Reducing Health Risks Associated with Backyard Chickens](#)

Upcoming PHO Events

- Thursday, October 19 – [PHO Rounds: Prioritizing Pathogens for Genomics](#) – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Interested in PHO's upcoming events? Checkout their [Events](#) page to stay up-to-date with all PHO events.

Missed an event? Check out their [Presentations](#) page for full recordings of their events.

Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

Dalla Lana

School of Public Health

- [Empowering Breast Health: Personalized Approaches to Canadian Breast Cancer Screening](#) (Oct. 19)
- [Driving Innovation with Real-World Evidence from Patient Generated Content](#) (Oct. 20)
- [Statistical Sciences Applied Research and Education Seminar \(ARES\): Robert Gould](#) (Oct. 23)
- [Tick Net Canada - Scientific Symposium](#) (Oct. 24-25)
- [Indigenizing Health Symposium: Nations Gathering on the Land](#) (Oct. 25-26)
- [Statistical Sciences Applied Research and Education Seminar \(ARES\): Martha White](#) (Oct. 30)

- [Biostatistics Seminar Series with Dr. Luis Enrique Nieto-Barajas on Survival Analysis via Bayesian Nonparametrics](#) (Nov. 9)

After a three-year hiatus, Blue Cities is returning to Toronto!

<p>Canadian Water Network BLUE CITIES October 24-25, 2023 Toronto, Ontario</p>	<p>Attention senior decision-makers!</p> <p>Join your peers and industry experts from across Canada to explore shared strategic goals and pathways to achieve them.</p> <p>Register now</p>	<p>Stay ahead of emerging trends</p> <p>Using wastewater-based surveillance to help protect public health.</p> <p>Integrating wastewater-based surveillance into public health systems.</p> <p>Future of wastewater-based surveillance in Canada.</p>
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Blue Cities, hosted by Canadian Water Network, is happening this October 24-25 in downtown Toronto. This year's conference includes a focus on water and public health protection. A national dialogue plenary featuring Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial officer of health, will explore the future of wastewater-based surveillance in Canada. Other topics to be covered during the conference include ethics and equity related to wastewater-based surveillance, new developments in water monitoring for public health decision-making, and public health threats from water impacted by forest fires. Program and registration details can be found at bluecities.ca. More information about Blue Cities is also available [here](#).

Now is the perfect time to join and make RRFSS your source for local health data in 2024!



There are many reasons to choose RRFSS for your Health Unit Survey. 2024 data can be collected in one, two or all three cycles in the year. Sample size is also flexible and data can be collected by landline and cell phone (up to a 50 per cent/50 per cent mix). RRFSS has hundreds of pretested survey questions available on most health-related topics including the recent Climate Change questions, newly developed Sociodemographic questions on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Race,

Use of and Barriers to Recreational, Social and Spiritual Supports for Older Adults module, Smoking, Vaping and Waterpipe by-laws Awareness.



In addition, RRFSS, in partnership with ISR, is offering three online Analysis Training Sessions in November (one per week). These are open to all Ontario health units and will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills required for analyzing RRFSS data and calculating weights. For further information about joining RRFSS or the Analysis Training Sessions, contact Lynne Russell, RRFSS Coordinator at: lynnerrussell@rfss.ca or visit the RRFSS website: www.rfss.ca

News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).



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