

Strategic direction I:

The Board of Health will inform its work through Indigenous community voices and information.

With Indigenous input and guidance, boards of health can create opportunities to adapt, enhance, and build culturally appropriate services specific to its catchment area, which Indigenous people are more likely to use, resulting in better health outcomes.

To achieve this, the Board of Health will:

- Develop mechanisms for sustained and meaningful Indigenous community input to the Board of Health.

Pathfinder Steps

- Develop process for Indigenous / Elder advisory circle to the Board of Health.
- Promote selection of Indigenous municipal and provincial appointees to the Board of Health.

Strategic direction II:

The Board of Health will engage in meaningful relationships to support Indigenous community well-being.

Strengthening local relationships between Indigenous communities and boards of health enhances public health programs and services leading to improved health outcomes. Relationships are built on trust, commitment, leadership, and capacity across local communities, recognizing that relationship building is a continuous process that takes time.

To achieve this, the Board of Health will:

- Develop mutually beneficial, respectful relationships to improve the public health systems with and for Indigenous Peoples.
- Ensure sustainable relationships through culturally safe, meaningful, and mutually beneficial engagement.
- Support Indigenous efforts to improve health and well-being.



Pathfinder Steps

- Board member commitment to attend and participate in Indigenous-led events and support Indigenous causes, such as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events, Indigenous Peoples' days, Indigenous Health conferences, community gatherings as appropriate.
- Explore the potential for formal partnerships or service agreements with Indigenous partners.

Strategic direction III:

The Board of Health will strengthen its capacity to become culturally safe.

Participating in cultural safety training to gain more knowledge about the customs and traditions of the Indigenous communities in the catchment area will provide a means for boards of health to engage in dialogue to better understand Indigenous needs and expectations concerning public health.

To achieve this, the Board of Health will:

- Learn from and share staff and partner experiences in working with Indigenous Peoples.
- Commit to participating in ongoing education opportunities.

Pathfinder steps

- Participate in regular Board of Health-specific Indigenous Engagement training and education workshops.
- Participate in land-based training opportunities.
- Engage in opportunities to travel to and learn about the diverse areas of the Board's Districts catchment outside of the City of Greater Sudbury for these teachings.



Strategic direction IV:

The Board of Health will advocate and partner to improve Indigenous health.

The Board of Health shall lead, support, and participate with other interested parties in health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies that decrease health inequities.

To achieve this, the Board of Health will:

- Act as a supportive ally within Indigenous community-led efforts to improve public health.
- Collaborate across jurisdictions to respond to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action in health (particularly in educating the public).

Pathfinder steps

- Partner with other ally agencies, including other local public health agencies, police services, health and social service agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organization sector, etc. in support of Indigenous representation on governance bodies and committees.
- Engage with provincial associations (e.g. Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)), to promote the inclusion of Indigenous membership on Ontario boards of health.
- Speak out and act in support of Treaty rights (e.g., Robinson-Huron Treaty Annuities Case, appropriate consultation standards with Indigenous communities on mining and other natural resource initiatives).

