



# Special Board of Health Meeting

Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Thursday, February 15, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Boardroom

1300 Paris Street

**AGENDA**  
**SPECIAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SUDBURY & DISTRICTS**  
**BOARDROOM, SECOND FLOOR**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. REVIEW OF AGENDA/DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
  - i) **Public Health Strengthening – Voluntary Merger, Algoma Public Health and Public Health Sudbury & Districts**
    - a. Motion from The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa dated February 6, 2024
    - b. Letter from Monarch Recovery Services CEO to Public Health Sudbury & District Board of Health Chair, dated January 30, 2024
    - c. Sudbury Star article dated January 30, 2024

**5. IN CAMERA**

**IN CAMERA**

**MOTION:**

**THAT this Board of Health goes in camera to deal with labour relations or employee negotiations, advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose, and a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Board. Time: \_\_\_\_\_**

**6. RISE AND REPORT**

**RISE AND REPORT**

**MOTION:**

**THAT this Board of Health rises and reports. Time: \_\_\_\_\_**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

**THAT we do now adjourn. Time: \_\_\_\_\_**



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Resolution # RC24019	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>M Hatfield</i>	Seconded by: <i>J. Sheppard</i>

**WHEREAS** on November 22, 2023 the Algoma Public Health Board passed a resolution to “undertake a feasibility study on the potential benefits and drawbacks of a voluntary merger of our two local public health agencies for the delivery of public health objectives.”; and

**WHEREAS** Algoma Public Health (APH) and Public Health Sudbury and District (PHSD) jointly wrote to numerous stakeholders on January 19, 2024 advising that they are “undertaking a process to explore a potential merger of the two public health units” and seeking feedback from those stakeholders on this proposal; and

**WHEREAS** since 2019, the Government of Ontario has attempted to change the delivery of public health throughout the province, first by attempting to force the merger of all Northeastern Ontario health units into a single health unit in 2019, which the government abandoned at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequently by incentivizing health units to explore voluntary mergers by paying the costs associated with undertaking the feasibility studies for such exploratory reviews; and

**WHEREAS** consolidation of APH with PHSD would be servicing an area spanning over 700km east-west from White River to Warren and 500km north-south from Chapleau to Manitoulin Island; and

**WHEREAS** any merged board would be unable to maintain all the regional representation that is currently represented on the Algoma Public Health Board, which is made up of a representative from Elliot Lake, one representative from Blind River, Spanish or Township of the North Shore, one representative from Wawa, White River or Dubreuilville, one representative from Thessalon or the Municipality of Huron Shores, one representative from Bruce Mines, Village of Hilton Beach, Townships of Hilton, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen, Plummer Additional, Prince, St. Joseph, or Tarbutt; and;

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The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council of the Municipality of Wawa opposes the merger of Algoma Public Health with Public Health Sudbury and District and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Board Chairs of both APH and PHSD, Municipalities in the Algoma District, FONOM and the Ministry of Health.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY MAYOR – JIM HOFFMANN	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

René Lapierre  
Board of Health Chair  
Public Health Sudbury & Districts

Hello René,

Thank you for your letter informing your community partners that there is a possible merger with PH Sudbury & Districts with PH Algoma. It was brought to the attention of Monarch's Board of Directors as suggested.

Monarch values and appreciates the collaboration that we have with PH in providing resources to the individuals that we serve. We not only have the assurance of regular health inspections of our facilities, but we have also benefit from your IPAC training, as well as we have your community nursing staff facilitate information sessions to our program participants on health promotion and communicable diseases, which included providing testing opportunities for individuals who often do not have access to primary care.

The Board of Directors at Monarch is concerned that this level of service may not continue after a merger and hope that this is part of your exploratory discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this with you.

Respectfully,



**Roxane Zuck BA**  
CEO/Directrice générale

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> <b>WOMEN'S INTAKE</b> <b>WOMEN'S TREATMENT</b> 405 Ramsey Rd. Sudbury, ON P3E 2Z5 TEL 705.674.4193 FAX 705-674-8002	<b>MEN'S INTAKE</b> <b>MEN'S RECOVERY</b> <b>HOME</b> <b>MEN'S AFTERCARE</b> 402 Brady St. Sudbury ON P3B 2P6 TEL 705.674.4193 FAX 705.671.8069	<b>MEN'S DAY</b> <b>TREATMENT</b> 17 Frood Rd. Suite 3, Box/CP 4 Sudbury, ON P3C 4Y9 TEL 705.674.4193 FAX 705.222.2059	<b>WOMEN'S</b> <b>AFTERCARE</b> <b>PPOP &amp; ASH</b> <b>PROGRAMS</b> 260 Oak St. Sudbury, ON P3C 1M9 TEL 705.674.4193 FAX 705.673.6919	<b>MULTI-FUNCTION</b> <b>BED PROGRAM</b> 210 Lloyd St. Sudbury, ON P3B 1N2 TEL 705.885-8045 FAX 705.885-8044
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# Sault city council opposes merger of Sudbury and Algoma public health units

*Sault mayor says council there opposed potential merger in 2019 and continues to oppose it*

Elaine Della-Mattia

Published Jan 30, 2024 · 3 minute read

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Public Health Sudbury and Districts. PHOTO BY JOHN LAPPA/SUDBURY STAR

City council in Sault Ste. Marie unanimously passed a resolution Monday opposing the merger of Algoma Public Health with Public Health Sudbury and District.

A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to both public health boards.

Mayor Matthew Shoemaker said the APH board requested that the motion be considered by city council. Other stakeholders will be asked to consider the same motion.

While talks of a merger date back to pre-pandemic 2019, at that time, the Ontario government attempted to force the merger of all Northeastern Ontario health units into a single unit. It was part of a larger plan to merge 35 public health units into 10 regional structures. That plan was abandoned with the onset of COVID-19.

Now, the public health units are being asked to voluntarily examine mergers and APH and PHSB are “undertaking a process to explore a potential merger” and seeking feedback from stakeholders.

Ward 5 Coun. Matt Scott said the distance the two public health units would cover in a merger would span over 700 km east-west from White River to Warren and 5,000 km north-south from Chapleau to Manitoulin Island.

Scott said that the needs in each community are not necessarily the same and a merged public health unit would not necessarily focus on the problems the region is experiencing and needs guidance on.

Ward 5 Coun. Corey Gardi echoed the sentiment.

He noted that “we’ve seen the importance of public health units over the course of the last few years, and they will undoubtedly play an important part of our lives for years to come,” he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Sandra Hollingsworth said that with the current crisis in the healthcare system and the shortage of family physicians, public health units are needed more than ever, and their programming is vital to the community.

“This would be just another nail in our cracking healthcare system. We need a continued voice for Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma,” she said.

Shoemaker said city council was opposed to the potential merger in 2019 and continues to be opposed to it.

The Ontario government has said that mergers of smaller health units are a key strategy to strengthen public health units across the province.

Mergers also reduce duplicate services and focus resources on improving access to programs and services closer to home.

He noted that Sault Ste. Marie’s measurable indicators are often different than Sudbury’s.

For instance, he noted, early COVID rates in Sault Ste. Marie were likely lower than other communities because of the decisions and leadership that APH and the community management team provided.

Council also noted that other statistics and programming like smoking cessation, immunization, pregnancy and parenting and healthy sexuality are not necessary the same in the two health care regions.

“The one-size-fits-all approach is not warranted or in the best interest of our community,” Shoemaker said.

The resolution also points out that a merged board would be unable to maintain all the regional representation that is currently represented on the APH Board.

The APH board includes one representative from Elliot Lake, one from Blind River, Spanish or Township of the North Shore, one from Wawa, White River or Dubreuilville, one from Thessalon or the Municipality of Huron Shores, and one from Bruce Mines, Village of Hilton Beach, Townships of Hilton, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, MacDonald, Meredith and Aberdeen, Plummer Additional, Prince, St. Joseph or Tarbutt.



At a November board meeting, APH board chair Sally Hagman said APH needs to get on board and help set its future direction with the merger study.

She said she was assured the region's front-line staffing will remain as is.

"Municipalities are going to want to make sure that, essentially, nothing changes," she had said.

The province has said one merger objective is to build critical mass through public health units that have a minimum population base of about 500,000 with consideration for future population growth, among other things.

It has also said that it recognizes that large geographical areas with remote populations may not see the benefits of merged health units.

- With files from Jeffrey Ougler

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