



Addendum: Board of Health Meeting

Meeting # 03-24

Thursday, April 18, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Boardroom



ADDENDUM – THIRD MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH
APRIL 18, 2024

7.0 ADDENDUM

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

i) Board of Health Membership

- Email and City of Greater Sudbury Council motion re appointment of Pauline Fortin on the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, April 16, 2024

ii) Public Health Strengthening

(relating to April 18 Board of Health agenda item 6i)

- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit news released *NBPSDHU and Renfrew County and District Health Unit Not Moving Forward with Merger*, March 19, 2024
- Northwestern Health Unit media release *Boards of Health vote against voluntary merger of northwestern Ontario's two health units* dated April 17, 2024
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit media release *Boards of Health not Proceeding with a Merger in Northwestern Ontario*, April 17, 2024

From: [Rachel Quesnel](#)
To: [Helene Leroux](#)
Subject: FW: Council Appointment - Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts
Date: April 18, 2024 10:21:44 AM

From: Brigitte Sobush <Brigitte.Sobush@greatersudbury.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 10:20 AM
To: Rachel Quesnel <quesnelr@phsd.ca>
Cc: rene.lapierre <rene.lapierre@greatersudbury.ca>; Eric Labelle <Eric.Labelle@greatersudbury.ca>; Manon Depatie <Manon.Depatie@greatersudbury.ca>
Subject: Council Appointment - Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts

Good morning,

On April 16, 2024, the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury appointed Councillor Fortin to the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts for the term ending November 14, 2026, or until their successor is appointed. A copy of the resolution confirming their appointment can be found on the City of Greater Sudbury's website: <https://www.greatersudbury.ca/city-hall/mayor-and-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>

Please contact Manon Depatie who has been copied on this email to provide you with Councillor Fortin's contact information in order to begin the onboarding process.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Brigitte

Brigitte Sobush

Manager, Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk
gestionnaire du Bureau de la greffière municipale/greffière adjointe
City of Greater Sudbury/Ville du Grand Sudbury
Provincial Offences Office/Bureau des infractions provinciales
Ontario Court of Justice/Cour de Justice de l'Ontario
705-674-4455 ext. 2010
brigitte.sobush@greatersudbury.ca

By receiving this email, I acknowledge and understand that any files transmitted via email are confidential in nature and are intended solely for the use of the individual or agent to whom they are addressed. I further understand that email transmissions are not guaranteed to be completely secure, or error-free. I further understand that The City of Greater Sudbury uses best efforts to maintain an accurate and concise record of electronic transmissions, however, cannot and will not be held responsible for violations of privacy related to the electronic transfer of documents.

To obtain this information in an accessible format or if you require a disability related accommodation please contact 705-674-4455.

Resolution Number CC2024-81

Title: Appointment – Committees of Council and Boards

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Moved By Councillor Leduc

Seconded By Councillor Benoit

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury appoints Councillor Fortin to the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts for the term ending November 14, 2026, or until their successor is appointed as outlined in the report entitled, “Appointment – Committees of Council and Boards” from the General Manager of Corporate Services, presented at the City Council meeting on April 16, 2024.

CARRIED



NBPSDHU and Renfrew County and District Health Unit Not Moving Forward with Merger

Posted on Tuesday, March 19, 2024

NEWS RELEASE

NORTH BAY, ON - Today, the Boards of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit announced they would not seek provincial approval and funding to voluntarily merge.

In August 2023, the Ontario Ministry of Health announced plans to strengthen the public health sector by offering one-time funding, resources, and supports to local public health units that decide to voluntarily merge by January 1, 2025. Proposing a potential merger to the Ministry of Health requires agreement from both Boards of Health.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit participated in a merger feasibility study funded by the Ministry of Health. The study looked at the pros and cons of the two health units merging, including the ability to deliver public health programs and services to all communities within the new proposed catchment area.

“Although our Board voted unanimously to merge with Renfrew County and District Health Unit during our meeting on March 11, we understand Renfrew’s decision to not merge with us,” explains Rick Champagne, Board Chair of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. “We will re-evaluate and consult with the Ministry of Health whether it is feasible to pursue further discussions at this time.”

Though the Health Unit is not moving forward with the voluntary merger, we will continue to look for innovative and evidence-based ways to provide quality public health service in our district.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Alex McDermid, Public Relations Specialist
P: 705-474-1400, ext. 5221 or 1-800-563-2808
E: communications@healthunit.ca

Your lifetime partner in healthy living!

Copyright 2022 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

April 17, 2024

Boards of Health vote against voluntary merger of northwestern Ontario's two health units

Kenora, ON - Today, the Boards of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) and Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) announced that they will not move forward with a business case for a voluntary merger of the two health units under the Province's Strengthening Public Health Strategy.

In August 2023, the Ministry of Health [announced](#) plans to strengthen the public health sector by offering one-time funding, resources, and supports to local public health agencies that decide to voluntarily merge by January 1, 2025.

In response to this announcement, the Boards of Health for NWHU and TBDHU decided to form a Voluntary Merger Assessment Committee, with representatives from both health units, who retained a third-party consultant, MNP LLP, [to explore the viability of a merger for the two health units in the province's northwest](#). "Mergers have been discussed by the Province for quite some time, so when the Ministry presented the opportunity to evaluate the viability of a merger in our region, we felt it was important to explore." said Marilyn Herbacz, NWHU CEO.

Over a series of months, the Voluntary Merger Assessment Committee, along with MNP, completed stakeholder engagement and significant review of documentation from each health unit to determine whether a merger between the two health units would meet the desired outcomes of this pillar of the Province's Strengthening Public Health strategy. The final result indicates that for a number of reasons, a merger between NWHU and TBDHU would not be viable.

Geography was noted as a significant consideration for a merged entity. Currently, NWHU serves 19 municipalities across an area of 173,828 km² with a population of approximately 82,000. A merger with TBDHU would result in a catchment area that spans over 400,000 km², limiting the organization's ability to nimbly adapt services to meet the diversity of local health needs. Lengthy travel times, particularly with unfavourable travel conditions, would be a challenge in providing centralized services or improving economies of scale or critical mass.

"While there are similarities in programming, there are notable differences in type and the operational model of programming based on the unique context of each health unit. A merged entity would still need to have different programming to meet the needs of communities" Stated Dr. Young Hoon, NWHU Medical Officer of Health. "Additionally, the vast majority of partners

MEDIA RELEASE

did not align with the larger geography, and the formation of a new entity had the potential to weaken partnerships across the system.”

The merger assessment considered the benefits and risks of a merger with respect to programming, service delivery, financial integration, information technology, human resources and capital infrastructure. “Merging is a substantial undertaking and worth it if the benefits are clear. While the assessment project identified some benefits, it did not demonstrate a level of benefit over risks that could justify the significant disruption and cost of a merger,” emphasized Herbacz.

In addition, it would be a challenge in ensuring that the 34 municipalities within a merged entity had a voice and adequate representation within its governance structure. “Municipalities are a key partner in the success of public health initiatives; they understand the needs of their communities. It is important to ensure true local representation to enable our staff to provide relevant and effective public health services.” Stated NWHU Board of Health Chair, Doug Lawrance.

Although the Board of Health has voted not to pursue a voluntary merger, the process was not without benefit. “We heard a lot about the ways in which collaboration is already happening between our health units, and identified opportunities for additional collaboration, both for how we approach service delivery, and in sharing the burden of cost for resources,” said Lawrance. “There is a clear willingness from our senior leaders to work together where possible to support the health and well-being of the people of northwestern Ontario.”

“Voluntary Mergers are just one of the three pillars to the Strengthening Public Health Strategy put forward by the Ministry of Health. Northwestern Health Unit looks forward to continued participation in the review of the Ontario Public Health Standards and the public health funding methodology review to support a truly strengthened public health system in Ontario, and especially for our communities here in the northwest.” noted Herbacz.

For information about Northwestern Health Unit’s Board of Health and local public health programs and services, please visit www.nwhu.on.ca.

-30-

Media Contact:

Marilyn Herbacz
Chief Executive Officer
Northwestern Health Unit
lkoch@nwhu.on.ca

Boards of Health not Proceeding with a Merger in Northwestern Ontario

Today, the Boards of Health of the Thunder Bay District (TBDHU) and the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) announced that they will not move forward with negotiations to voluntarily merge the two health units.

This afternoon, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health passed a resolution at its Board meeting indicating it does not agree to a merger of TBDHU with NWHU. This followed a special meeting of the Board in the morning where they heard from the consultant involved in this work, and received further information from TBDHU administration on details and implications of a merger. The Board of Health of the Northwestern Health Unit passed a similar motion opposing a merger at its Board meeting earlier this week.

“Our Board values the ability to develop and adapt services to meet the diversity of local health needs,” said TBDHU Board of Health Chair, Don Smith. “Merging public health units across this vast geography would pose numerous challenges in the delivery of public health programs and services, and ensuring that municipalities and communities have appropriate voice and representation. The Board’s commitment and responsibility is to the health needs of the communities we serve. Today’s decision reflects that commitment,” said Smith.

Thunder Bay District Health Unit covers an area of 230,000 square kilometers with over 153,000 residents. This area includes 15 municipalities, 25 First Nations, and unorganized communities and areas in the Thunder Bay District.

Today’s decision not to proceed with a merger was made following months of formal engagement and consultations facilitated by a third party consultant to review a range of considerations and potential issues that would need to be addressed in the event of a formal merger.

Although TBDHU’s Board of Health has voted against a merger with NWHU, the process that both organizations have taken together has been a valuable opportunity, and the longstanding history of collaboration between the two health units will continue into the future.

“Voluntary mergers are just one of three pillars in the Province’s Strengthening Public Health initiative”, said Smith. “We look forward to working with the Ministry of Health to support the revised Ontario Public Health Standards and the review of the public health funding methodology. We all support the provincial goal of strengthening the local public health system and improving health and addressing health inequities across local communities, including here in northwestern Ontario,” said Smith.

Learn more about the governing body for [TBDHU’s Board of Health](#).

NEWS TYPE

Corporate

HEALTH TOPICS

Corporate