

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Board of Health Meeting

Information Items

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Listing of Information Items Board of Health Meeting – September 6, 2023

1. City of Hamilton – Letter to Minister Jones re Declarations of emergency in the areas of homelessness, mental health and opioid overdoses/poisoning dated May 11, 2023
2. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Minister Jones re public health funding dated June 23, 2023
3. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Premier Doug Ford re Bill 103, smoke-free Ontario amendment act (vaping is not for kids) 2023 dated June 28, 2023
4. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – Letter to Minister Jones re Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 2024 budget dated June 21, 2023
5. Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit – Letter to Minister Jones re funding shortfalls for 2024 dated July 3, 2023
6. Porcupine Health Unit – Letter to Minister David Piccini re request for air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit region dated July 5, 2023
7. Chatham-Kent Public Health – Letter to Premier Ford and Minister Jones re universal no-cost coverage for all prescription contraceptive options to all people living in Ontario dated April 25, 2023
8. Timiskaming Health Unit – Letter to Premier Ford et al re addressing household food insecurity in Ontario dated May 8, 2023
9. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Premier Ford re Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023 dated May 16, 2023
10. Huron Perth Public Health – Letter to Minister Gould et al re Federal school food policy dated June 1, 2023
11. Huron Perth Public Health – Letter to Minister Parsa re request for immediate funding for student nutrition programs and to increase funding for future school years
12. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Minister Duclos re Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages) dated June 6, 2023
13. Thunder Bay District Health Unit – Letter to Minister Jones re letter of support – physical literacy for healthy active children dated July 14, 2023
14. Timiskaming Health Unit – Letter to Minister Piccini re request for air quality monitoring station in the Timiskaming Health Unit region dated August 1, 2023
15. Middlesex-London Health Unit – Letter to Premier Ford et al re Middlesex-London Health Unit 2024 budget dated August 2, 2023
16. Memorandum from Ministry of Health re provincial strategy to strengthen public health in Ontario dated August 22, 2023

The above information items can be found on the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health's website through the link in the Agenda Package or by going to our website at hpePublicHealth.ca.

17. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Premier Ford re Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023 dated June 28, 2023
18. Association of Local Public Health Agencies – Letter to Minister Jones re Public Health funding and capacity announcement dated August 23, 2023

The above information items can be found on the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health's website through the link in the Agenda Package or by going to our website at hpePublicHealth.ca.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, M.P.P.
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
Sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Michael A. Tibollo, M.P.P.
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Ministry of Health
Frost South
6th Floor
7 Queens Park Circle
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Michael.tiboloco@pc.ola.org

May 11, 2023

Subject: Declarations of Emergency in the Areas of Homelessness, Mental Health and Opioid Overdoses/Poisoning

Dear Minister Jones and Minister Tibollo,

At the April 12, 2023 Hamilton City Council meeting, a motion was passed declaring an emergency of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Opioid Overdoses/Poisoning. In adherence with this motion, I am writing to you today to request that the Provincial Government act on the eight measures proposed by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies". These specific measures include:

1. Creation of a multi-sectoral task force to guide the development of a robust provincial opioid response plan that will ensure necessary resourcing, policy change, and health and social system coordination;
2. Expanding access to evidence informed harm reduction programs and practices including lifting the provincial cap of 21 Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) Sites, funding Urgent Public Health Needs Sites (UPHNS) and scaling up safer supply options

3. Revision of the current CTS model to address the growing trends of opioid poisoning amongst those who are using inhalation methods;
4. Expanding access to opioid agonist therapy for opioid use disorder through a range of settings (e.g. mobile outreach, primary care, emergency departments, Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine Clinics), and a variety of medication options;
5. Providing a long-term financial commitment to create more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, including people with substance use disorders;
6. Addressing the structural stigma and harms that discriminate against people who use drugs, through provincial support and advocacy to the Federal government to decriminalize personal use and possession of substances and ensure increased investments in health and social services at all levels;
7. Increasing investments in evidence-informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and
8. Funding additional and dedicated positions for public health to support the critical coordination and leadership of local opioid and substance abuse strategies.”

As with other municipalities throughout Ontario, the impact of the drug toxicity crisis continues to have a significant impact on our community. Between January 2023 and April 2023, Hamilton Paramedic Services responded to 336 incidents related to suspect opioid overdoses, with three out of the four months surpassing previous monthly totals. Furthermore, 52 suspect drug-related deaths have occurred this year as of April 12, not only representing lives cut short but also untold grief for the loved ones of these individuals and the broader community.

Hamilton continues to coordinate a local response with health and social service providers to address this public health crisis by leveraging local expertise and resources. While these local efforts continue, further response and collaboration is needed at all levels of government. The eight measures recommended by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies would provide a range of interventions to best support individuals based on their needs, and reflect the ongoing serious harms present in our community related to the toxic drug supply. For example, investing in the necessary support and prevention initiatives for our children and youth would promote mental health and work to prevent substance use. Increasing the number of CTS sites would help save lives by increasing

the number of places to safely consume substances in our community, while facilitating access to treatment options. As this complex issue transcends municipal boundaries, the Province is best situated to act decisively in order meet these goals through their capacity, resources, and leadership.

We firmly believe that one of the necessary responses to the ongoing drug toxicity crisis is to action the above eight items. However, Hamilton cannot accomplish this undertaking alone and Provincial leadership is needed to ensure success. The Hamilton Public Health Services team is more than agreeable to meet with your staff to tackle this task head-on and thereby continue to ensure that Ontario is a place where all its residents can be healthy, prosperous and reach their fullest potential throughout life.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrea Horwath

Mayor

City of Hamilton

CC:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General

Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Hon. Neil Lumsden, MPP Hamilton East – Stoney Creek

Donna Skelly, MPP Flamborough – Glanbrook

Monique Taylor, MPP Hamilton Mountain

Sandy Shaw, MPP Hamilton West – Ancaster – Dundas

Sarah Jama, MPP Hamilton Centre

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health

Ontario Boards of Health

Ontario Health

Ontario Public Health Association



June 23, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Jones:

Re: Public Health Funding

I am pleased to share with you Public Health Sudbury & Districts Board of Health motion in support of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton, which calls on the provincial government to improve funding to Public Health.

At its meeting on May 18, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #31-23:

THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse the recommendations of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton and urge the provincial government to:

- *Fully fund the provincial portion, at least 70%, of the total costs of the mandatory public health programs and services provided under the OPHS;*
- *Continue the current mitigation funding until such time as the cost-shared arrangement is restored to the mixed 100% and 75%/25% model as it was the public health budget for 2018-2019; and,*
- *Include expectations or on-going response in the OPHS and provide permanent funding to sustain these requirements.*

Boards of Health play a key role in improving the health of communities and Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to an effective and accountable public health system. With inflation costs, increasing costs in wages and benefits and operating expenses, there are growing concerns about our ability

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unit  130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Bo te 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unit  100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

 le Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Bo te 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Bo te 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



The Honourable Sylvia Jones

June 23, 2023

Page 2

to meet the requirements of provincial legislation and related documents including the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and the increasing needs of our communities with the current provincial funding policy. It is critical that Public Health be adequately resourced. Without adequate funding, our ability to deliver on our requirements risk erosion over time impacting the health of our communities. We urge the government to support sufficient, stable, and sustained funding for local public health agencies.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Penny Sutcliffe', with a stylized, cursive script.

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France G  linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
All Ontario Boards of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies



June 28, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023

Teen vaping has increased steadily across the nation and within Sudbury and districts since 2017. There are significant health risks associated with vaping and nicotine use including lung damage, changes to the brain, dependence or addiction, difficulty learning, and increased anxiety and stress. Furthermore, there is an increased risk for future tobacco cigarette use among youth who vape (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, 2018).

Bill 103 aims to prevent youth from starting to vape and seeks to decrease vaping rates through a number of important actions, including prohibiting the promotion of vapour products, and raising the minimum age for purchasing vapour products.

At its meeting on June 15, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #35-23:

WHEREAS vaping poses substantial health risks linked to the development of chronic illness, addiction, polysubstance use, as well as risks for injury and death; and

WHEREAS vaping rates among youth have grown with 30.6% of Grade 7 to 12 students in Northern Ontario reporting having used electronic cigarettes(vaping) in 2019, compared with 22.7% for the province; and

WHEREAS Board of Health motion [48-19](#) noted the Board's longstanding history of proactive and effective action to prevent tobacco and emerging product use and urged the adoption of a comprehensive tobacco and e-cigarette strategy; and

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



WHEREAS [Bill 103 – Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act \(Vaping is not for Kids\)](#), 2023 aims to prevent youth from initiating vaping and decrease the current usage of vaping products by targeting legislation changes, including banning the retail of flavoured vaping products, increasing minimum purchasing age to 21, and prohibiting the promotion of vapor products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse Bill 103 - Smoke Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023; and

FURTHER THAT this endorsement be shared with relevant stakeholders.

Vaping among youth is a complex public health issue that requires immediate action. This suggests that a single intervention or approach will be insufficient to address the high rates of vaping among youth. At Public Health Sudbury & Districts, our efforts in addressing youth vaping involve a multi-faceted, comprehensive, upstream, and strengths-based approach that supports positive youth development. Strategies are community and school-driven and influence risk and protective factors associated with vaping. The strategies include education, policy development, prevention programs, research, collaboration, and enforcement activities, fostering the development of supportive social and physical environments in which youth can thrive and flourish. Yet, this is just one piece in a comprehensive approach addressing youth vaping.

The legislative solutions of Bill 103 are designed to make vaping less available and desirable for youth to address the increase in rates of vaping and to prevent the associated harms of vaping.

We thank you for your attention to this important health promotion initiative, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health for everyone.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: France G  linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
All Ontario boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

June 21, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
777 Bay Street, Floor 5
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Email to: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Re: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 2024 Budget

Dear Minister Jones,

On behalf of the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), I wish to express appreciation for the Ontario government's investment in public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, the most extraordinary emergency response of our lifetime. Public health remains a cornerstone of the health system during pandemics and at other times, providing cost-effective services that have reduced overall provincial health care costs and kept many people out of emergency departments and hospitals, while at the same time maintaining a healthy and productive population.

Sufficient, predictable, and timely provincial funding into the future is vital to maintaining these essential cost-saving services. The [Public Health Resilience in Ontario](#) report and the [2023 pre-budget submission](#) of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), as well as the 2022 Annual Report from the Chief Medical Officer of Health ([Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemics](#)) have spoken to the great value of the Province's ongoing investment in local public health.

The provincial Mitigation Funding of \$2.2 million provides a very important contribution to the Province's overall grant to the budget for SMDHU, which is vitally important in maintaining the Board's full range of services to the communities it serves. In addition, ongoing dedicated funding for COVID-19 would allow SMDHU to continue to respond to COVID-19 as a disease of public health significance in accordance with the provincial guidelines.

Specifically the continuation of these funds would help to ensure that residents and visitors of Simcoe Muskoka receive a full range of essential public health programs and services that have kept Ontarians out of hospitals, such as food safety inspections to prevent foodborne illness, ensuring safe drinking water to prevent community-wide outbreaks, supporting parents and families for healthy growth and development, tobacco control to prevent lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, promoting healthy nutrition to prevent diabetes and cardiovascular disease, improving mental health in school children, immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases, and preparations for future public health emergencies, to name but a few. Funding would also support SMDHU's continued presence throughout our region such that public health services are accessible to all via various modalities, including in our local offices and by ready phone contact.

Barrie:
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7520
FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
34 Chaffey St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9565
FAX: 705-325-2091

Given the impacts identified above and the value achieved through ongoing funding from the Province for local public health services in our communities of Simcoe County, the District of Muskoka, and the Cities of Barrie and Orillia, the Board urges that the Province include its Mitigation Funding within its base funding grant commencing in 2024, and also continue funding for the COVID-19 response (vaccination and outbreak management). In this context, the Board notes and supports alPHA's position for a return to the provision of 75% of the funding by the Province for the base budgets of local public health units.

To maintain the public health services that are essential to the health of our communities, it is critical that local public health agencies be adequately resourced by the Province, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl
Chair, Board of Health
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

cc: Councils of the Simcoe Muskoka obligated municipalities
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health in Ontario
MPPs of Simcoe Muskoka

July 3, 2023

Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Province of Ontario
Hepburn Block 10th Floor 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto,
ON M7A 1E9
Sent via email: Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Jones,

I want to begin by thanking you and your government for your continued commitment to keeping the health and safety of Ontarians a top priority. Your steadfast financial support for public health units throughout the COVID-19 pandemic was critical to ensuring our ongoing ability to meet the needs of our communities.

On behalf of the Board of Health for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU), I am writing to you to share our concerns about significant funding shortfalls anticipated for 2024.

The Province of Ontario invested significant funds across the health sector to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The success of preventing the spread of COVID-19 through vaccination and other public health measures is something to celebrate. Given that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern, it is understandable that the scope and scale of interventions and financial support provided by the Province is pared back.

We are aware that several one-time buckets of funding are planned to end throughout 2023. This includes the School Focused Nurses Initiative, COVID-19 Extraordinary Funding, and Mitigation Funding. This leaves public health units to respond to increased community needs that arose during the pandemic (such as drug poisonings), address public health service back-logs (such as immunizations), and continue to manage COVID-19 as an endemic infectious disease using a base budget that is essentially the same as it was in 2018.

The end of the above-mentioned one-time funding, coupled with increased operational costs due to inflation, means that HKPRDHU will be challenged to meet the growing needs of our communities and the continued expanding requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS). Our anticipated financial shortfall to maintain our existing programs, assuming that Mitigation funding is continued, is estimated at \$1.9 million. To illustrate the gap in funding solely related to inflationary pressures, had the consumer price index been applied annually since 2018 to the HKPRDHU base budget, the provincial portion of our base budget for mandatory programs would be \$14,728.994 (an increase of \$2.7 million dollars).

Although one-time funding enabled health units to address urgent needs arising in a timely fashion, the lack of sufficient, predictable funding is a barrier to establishing a permanent strong and resilient public health system. Strong infrastructure for local public health is paramount to ensuring that Ontario is ready for the next surge in COVID-19, the next pandemic, the next extreme weather event, or the next emerging health hazard.

PROTECTION · PROMOTION · PREVENTION

HEAD OFFICE
200 Rose Glen Road
Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V6
Phone · 1-866-888-4577
Fax · 905-885-9551

HALIBURTON OFFICE
Box 570
191 Highland Street, Unit 301
Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone · 1-866-888-4577
Fax · 705-457-1336

LINDSAY OFFICE
108 Angeline Street South
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 3L5
Phone · 1-866-888-4577
Fax · 705-324-0455

Now, more than ever, our communities need a robust public health system. While the threat of COVID-19 has dimmed, the need for an agile public health response to infectious disease threats was clearly articulated in the Chief Medical Officer of Health report for 2022 (insert link to Being Ready).

Public health units are a fundamental part of the solution to address the current challenges faced in primary and acute care. By preventing the spread of infectious diseases, preventing illnesses associated with environmental exposures, and preventing chronic diseases through policy development and health promotion, public health units keep people out of emergency departments and out of hospitals. Investing in public health is a long-term, sustainable approach to building a strong health care system.

For the above reasons, the Board of Health for HKPRDHU urges the provincial government to demonstrate their ongoing support for public health by increasing the provincial contribution to mandatory programs and continuing Mitigation funding. Should Mitigation funding end, we urge the provincial government to reverse the 70/30 policy decision made in 2019.

As we look to a future that holds a strong, resilient health system for all Ontarians, we urge the Province to provide the necessary supports for the recovery and strengthening of public health in a comprehensive and sustainable way.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



David Marshall, Chair, Board of Health

DE/nb

Cc (via email): The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies

July 5, 2023

Honourable Minister David Piccini
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
Sent Via E-mail

Subject: Request for Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the Porcupine Health Unit region

Dear Minister Piccini,

We are writing to request the installation of air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) region. On June 8, 2023, the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit carried the following resolution #BOH-2023-06-66:

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health for the Porcupine Health Unit direct the Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer and Board of Health Chair to write a letter requesting the installation of air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit Region.

The implementation of these monitoring stations is crucial to ensure the health and well-being of the residents in this region. As per the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), boards of health are required to prepare for emergencies, and protect public health and reduce the risk of adverse health outcomes resulting from poor air quality.¹ Unfortunately, the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU) region currently lacks the necessary infrastructure for comprehensive air quality monitoring. This deficiency prevents accurate assessment of poor air quality exposure and potential health risks faced by PHU communities, thus limiting data-informed and community specific recommendations for community members, especially those at higher risk of negative health impacts.

The need for this capacity has become more urgent with the ongoing forest fire season and significant air quality alerts due to wildfire smoke. As the largest geographic health unit in the province, covering over 274,000 square kilometers, sharing lands with 11 distinct First Nation communities, poor air quality due to forest fire smoke is not new however is an increasing concern and we need access to the appropriate information to respond to these emergencies.

Air pollution is a significant public health concern, as it has detrimental effects on human health. Exposure to poor air quality is associated with increased rates of respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and even premature death.² The PHU population experiences poorer health status compared to Ontario, with a higher percentage of the population reporting chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure,³ and thus many community members are at greater risk from the ill effects of poor air quality due to pollution as well as wildfire smoke.

Climate change has exacerbated air pollution issues, leading to increased health risks and environmental challenges. Rising temperatures, increased frequency of wildfires, and changing weather patterns contribute to the release of pollutants into the air, posing significant health risks to our communities.⁴ Monitoring air quality will enable a better understanding of the complex interactions between climate change and air pollution across the vast region, allowing us to assess exposure levels to air pollution and develop targeted strategies to address these interconnected issues.

These targeted strategies for air pollution would also benefit environmental justice. Environmental justice is of the utmost importance in the Porcupine region, which is home to many equity-deserving and marginalized communities. These communities are often disproportionately affected by poor air quality and environmental hazards, resulting in disproportionate health disparities.^{5,6} By installing air quality monitoring stations, we can better protect the health of all residents, regardless of their socio-economic status or geographical location. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promote environmental justice and reduce health inequities in the Porcupine region. Installing air quality monitoring stations in strategic locations of the Porcupine region would also be an investment in the health and well-being of our communities. By proactively monitoring air quality, we can detect pollutant trends, identify potential sources of pollution, and implement targeted interventions. This approach has been proven to reduce the burden of disease, improve overall health outcomes, and ultimately lead to cost savings for the healthcare system.^{2, 7,8}

Furthermore, the implementation of air quality monitoring stations would provide several immediate benefits to the communities in the Porcupine region. Firstly, it would increase public awareness and knowledge regarding air quality and its impact on health. With access to real-time air quality data, residents can make informed decisions about outdoor activities, particularly for higher risk groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing cardiac and respiratory conditions. It is also critical to inform local collaborative emergency response plans to ensure risk reduction measures and indoor spaces with clean air are available to all, including the increasing population facing under housing and homelessness. Secondly, these monitoring stations would enable us to assess the effectiveness of pollution control measures and policies. By analyzing the data collected, we can evaluate the impact of various interventions, advocate for evidence-based policies, and ensure that air quality standards are being met.

We urge you to consider this request for the timely installation of air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit region. By doing so, we will fulfill our obligations under the OPHS, protect the health of our residents, and promote sustainable development. The availability of accurate air quality data will empower communities to make informed decisions, reduce exposure to pollutants, and improve overall health outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your positive response and discussing the next steps in implementing air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit region.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Boileau
Board of Health Chair



Dr. Lianne Catton
Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer
Porcupine Health Unit

Copy: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health
Honourable Steven Guibeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Bernard Derible, Parliamentary Deputy Minister, Emergency Management, Treasury Board Secretariat
Commissioner of Emergency Management
Honourable George Pirie, Member of Provincial Parliament Timmins
Honourable John Vanthof, Member of Provincial Parliament Timiskaming - Cochrane
Honourable Guy Bourgouin, Member of Provincial Parliament Mushkegowuk-James Bay
Honourable Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament Timmins
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Member of Parliament, Minister of Health
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Health Agencies (ALPHA)
All Ontario Boards of Health
All Member Municipalities of the Porcupine Health Unit

References

1. Ontario. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018. 2018. Retrieved from:
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Healthy_Environments_and_Climate_Change_Guideline_2018_en.pdf (2018, accessed June 7, 2023).
2. Health Canada. Health impacts of air pollution in Canada: estimates of morbidity and premature mortality outcomes—2021 report. The Authority of the Minister of Health. 2021.
3. Porcupine Health Unit. (2021). Porcupine Health Unit Status Report. Timmins, ON: Razzaq, Asma.
4. Von Schneidemesser E, Monks PS, Allan JD, Bruhwiler L, Forster P, Fowler D, Lauer A, Morgan WT, Paasonen P, Righi M, Sindelarova K. Chemistry and the linkages between air quality and climate change. *Chemical reviews*. 2015 May 27;115(10):3856-97.
5. Fernández-Llamazares Á, Garteizgogeoasca M, Basu N, Brondizio ES, Cabeza M, Martínez-Alier J, McElwee P, Reyes-García V. A state-of-the-art review of indigenous peoples and environmental pollution. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management*. 2020 May;16(3):324-41.
6. McGee TK. Evacuating first nations during wildfires in Canada. *Fire Safety Journal*. 2021 Mar 1;120:103120.
7. Shamsi H, Munshed M, Tran MK, Lee Y, Walker S, The J, Raahemifar K, Fowler M. Health cost estimation of traffic-related air pollution and assessing the pollution reduction potential of zero-emission vehicles in toronto, Canada. *Energies*. 2021 Aug 12;14(16):4956.
8. Matz CJ, Egyed M, Xi G, Racine J, Pavlovic R, Rittmaster R, Henderson SB, Stieb DM. Health impact analysis of PM_{2.5} from wildfire smoke in Canada (2013–2015, 2017–2018). *Science of The Total Environment*. 2020 Jul 10;725:138506.12;14(16):

April 25, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Delivered via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
Delivered via email: sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford and Deputy Premier and Minister Jones:

RE: Universal, No-cost Coverage for all Prescription Contraceptive Options to all People Living in Ontario

At its meeting held on March 15, 2023, the Chatham-Kent Board of Health passed the following motion:

“That Administration prepare a letter of advocacy to the Provincial government encouraging them to cover the cost of birth control for all Ontario residents, and that this letter be copied to alPHa and any other appropriate partners.”

It is estimated that 30-40% of all pregnancies in Canada are unintended with those of lower socioeconomic status being one of the leading vulnerable groups impacted¹. Timely access to effective contraception directly influences the rate of unintended pregnancies. In Canada, cost is the leading barrier preventing individuals from gaining access to effective contraceptives^{2/3}. Cost should not be a barrier Ontarians face to obtain consistent and timely access to effective contraceptives.

OHIP+ has begun to address this issue in Ontario by providing no cost coverage for anyone under the age of 25 who is not covered by a private plan. This coverage needs to be expanded to all Ontarians without the restrictions put on those with private plans or those over the age of 24. Ontarians should have universal, no-cost, confidential access to effective contraceptives.

At the beginning of April, British Columbia started the journey of providing prescription contraceptive access equality for their province and we are advocating for Ontario in this journey.

.../2

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We stand firmly in support of protecting and advancing sexual and reproductive health rights.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brock McGregor
Chair, Chatham-Kent Board of Health

Copy to:

Hon. Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington

Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHA)
Ontario Public Health Units

1 Nethery E, Schummers L, Maginley S, Dunn S and Norman W. "Household income and contraceptive methods among female youth: a cross sectional study using the Canadian Community Health Survey (2009-2010 And 2013-2014)". CMAJ Open, vol. 7, no. 4, 2019 Retrieved from www.cmajopen.ca/content/7/4/E646

2 Hulme Jennifer, et al. "Barriers and Facilitators to Family Planning Access in Canada." Healthcare Policy, Politiques De Sante, vol 10, no.3, 2015, pp. 48-63., doi:10.12927/hcpol.2015.24169

3 Black, Amanda Y., et al. "The Cost of Unintended Pregnancies in Canada: Estimating Direct Cost, Role of Imperfect Adherence, and the Potential Impact of Increased Use of Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives." Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada, vol. 37, no. 12, 2015.pp. pp. 1086-1097., doi:10.1016/s1701-2163(16)30074-3.



Head Office:

247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

May 8, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Rm 281
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social
Services
438 University Ave, 7th Floor.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
Sent via email: michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health/Deputy Premier
777 Bay Street, College Park, 5th Floor.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent via email: sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister Jones, and Minister Parsa

Re: Addressing Household Food Insecurity in Ontario

On April 05, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Board of Health (Board) for the Timiskaming Health Unit, the Board recognized Household Food Insecurity (HFI) as an income-driven problem that requires income-based solutions.

Household food insecurity is a significant issue affecting our region, with 1 in 5 households in Timiskaming experiencing some form of food insecurity.² This vulnerability is closely linked to household income, and families with lower incomes are more likely to struggle with affording food, rent and other basic needs.¹

The 2022 Monitoring Food Affordability findings show that a family of four in Timiskaming spends \$1,152 monthly on food.² This family would need to allocate a significant portion of their income towards rent and food, with 50% and 41%, respectively. Consequently, they would have a meagre average of \$228 left to cover other basic necessities such as childcare, transportation, utilities, and medication.² To afford the actual cost of living in Timiskaming, individuals would need to earn a living wage of \$19.70, highlighting a discrepancy between the current minimum wage and the living wage.³

Accordingly, the Board endorsed the enclosed correspondence from the [Ontario Dietitians in Public Health \(ODPH\)](#) urging the Ontario government to adopt income-based solutions that effectively reduce HFI; these include the reinstatement of the basic income guarantee project, closing the gap between



Head Office:

247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

the minimum wage and living wage, increasing social assistance rates and indexing them to match the true cost of living, and reducing income tax rates for lowest-income households. These policies effectively reduce household food insecurity, improve health outcomes, and reduce long-term healthcare costs.¹

Our Board recognizes that the province of Ontario has the power to reduce food insecurity and extreme poverty for households receiving social assistance. We kindly request that you take into consideration the motion passed by our Board regarding this pressing issue.

We appreciate your attention to this significant matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Wight
Board of Health Chair

cc John Vanthof, MPP – Timiskaming-Cochrane
Anthony Rota, MP – Timiskaming-Nipissing
Charlie Angus, MP – Timmins-James Bay
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)
Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)
Ontario Boards of Health
Health Unit Member Municipalities

References

1. Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022) Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>
2. Timiskaming Health Unit. (2023) The Cost of Eating Well in Timiskaming – Monitoring Food Affordability Report, 2022. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/3ZTGh7f>
3. Coleman, A., Shaban, R. (2022). Calculating Ontario's Living Wages. Ontario Living Wage Network.



Head Office:

247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

Board of Health MOTION #21R-2023 – April 05, 2023

Moved by: Curtis Arthur Seconded by: Mark Wilson

WHEREAS, it is a requirement under the Ontario Public Health Standards for public health units to monitor food affordability, assess and report on the health of local populations, and describe the existence and impact of health disparities; AND

WHEREAS, food insecurity is widely known to have adverse effects on both physical and mental health; AND adequate income is a crucial social determinant of health that significantly affects food security; AND

WHEREAS, 67% of households in Ontario with social assistance as their primary income source experience food insecurity; AND

WHEREAS, the 2022 Monitoring food affordability results demonstrate that households relying on social assistance do not have enough money to cover their living expenses, including food; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Health for the Timiskaming Health Unit (Board) continues to increase awareness of, and work to reduce, health inequities, including those related to food insecurity; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the [Ontario Dietitians in Public Health \(ODPH\)](#) call for the provincial government to take swift and immediate action in implementing income-based policy interventions for all in Ontario, aged 18–64 years as an effective and long-term response to household food insecurity; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board calls on the Province of Ontario to increase social assistance rates to reflect the true costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation moving forward; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Province to resume exploring the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Health provide correspondence of these resolutions to John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), Anthony Rota, MP (Timiskaming-Nipissing), Charlie Angus, MP (Timmins-James Bay), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH), Ontario Boards of Health , and Health Unit Member Municipalities.

CARRIED



May 16, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am writing to convey the Board's support for Bill 93 Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023 which recently passed second reading.

The matter of boating safety and drowning prevention is of great interest to the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts. On September 22, 2022, we advised your office of the Board's [resolution](#) to request the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals in a pleasure boat to wear a lifejacket or PFD.

Over the 10-year period from 2012 to 2021, 2147 Ontarians (65 Sudbury and districts) had emergency department visits that resulted from a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft and, over the last 10 years of available death data (2009-2018), 198 Ontarians (8 Sudbury and districts) died of a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft. The Board of Health is aware that of the nationally reported boating deaths from 2013 to 2017 for which data were available, 79% were not wearing a lifejacket or personal floatation device (PFD). Not wearing a lifejacket is the most common behavioural risk factor associated with boating drownings across the lifespan. In Canadian drowning deaths from 2013 to 2017 for which PFD data were available, 87% of 15–34-year-olds, 75% of 35–64-year-olds, and 80% of 65+ year olds were not wearing lifejackets. Not wearing lifejackets continues to be identified as the most common risk factor in drowning deaths beyond childhood.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca

Letter to the Premier of Ontario
Re: Bill 93 – Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023
May 16, 2023
Page 2

Bill 93 is an important first step to saving lives. Public Health will continue to strongly advocate for the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RL' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Honourable C. Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Honourable S. Jones, Minister of Health
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serré, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hugues, Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
All Ontario Boards of Health

June 1, 2023

Honourable Karina Gould
Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development

Email: karina.gould@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau
Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food

Email: Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Ministry of Health

Email: jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca

Dear Federal Ministers Gould, Bibeau and Duclos:

Re: Federal School Food Policy

I write on behalf of the Huron Perth Public Health Board of Health. As the federal government prepares to release a National School Food Policy and invest in programs across the country, we wish to reiterate the call for the development of a universal, cost-shared school food program for Canada and share our concerns about the current state of student nutrition programs in Ontario and our region.

Currently across Ontario, many school programs are unable to meet current demands, shutting down before the end of the school year or having to limit the foods served in order to get through the to the end of the year due to insufficient funds. Many programs have felt the strain with limited increases to provincial funding since 2014, while the rising food costs of the last two years and increased demand have significantly out-paced current funding. Other schools who have not previously had a program are seeing a demand, but there are no funds for new programs. There are urgent and immediate needs now. Children and youth need access to nourishing food to thrive and, without further investment, many will not have access to nourishing food at school. The current state of school food programs across Canada is patchwork and resource-limited. While many schools in Ontario do have student nutrition programs partially funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, a significant investment from the federal government would allow for expansion of services and to address existing gaps. The current reliance on fundraising, volunteers, and donations is inconsistent, unsustainable, and puts schools who most need the support at a significant disadvantage. School food programs offer many academic and nutritional benefits and should be implemented along with additional income supports to reduce health inequities and food insecurity for families across Canada. School food policy and programs alone cannot alleviate poverty and food insecurity.^{1,2} School food programs can, however, play an important role in improving nutrition

¹ PROOF, Open Letter: Stop headlining the pan-Canadian school food policy as a way to reduce food insecurity among children. Dec 9, 2022. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/resource/open-letter-on-school-food-policy-consultation/>

² Ontario Dietitians on Public Health, Position Statement and Recommendations on Response to Food Insecurity. Dec 2020. <https://www.odph.ca/odph-position-statement-on-responses-to-food-insecurity-1>

intake, supporting healthy growth and development, supporting academic success, attendance and educational attainment, and improving mental health and well-being.³

Currently many elementary schools do not have adequate facilities to allow safe food handling and production of onsite food for meal/snack programs or for hands-on food literacy learning opportunities for students. Adequate funding for infrastructure improvements would benefit school food programs and academic learning across health and physical education, science and technology and other cross-curricular learning opportunities, which can build critical food skills for students when transitioning into adulthood.

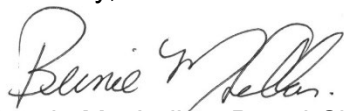
School food programs should be designed to⁴:

- serve tasty, nourishing, culturally appropriate foods
- ensure that ALL students in a school can access the program in a non-stigmatizing manner
- be a cost-shared model, including federal support
- be flexible and locally adapted to the context of the school and region, including commitment to Indigenous control over programs for Indigenous students
- support Canadian farmers and local food producers
- promote food literacy

Huron Perth Public Health Board of Health stands alongside other Boards of Health, School Boards, Municipalities, and other government agencies and organizations in supporting the Coalition for Healthy School Food's vision that every school-aged child and youth has a nutritious meal or snack at school daily.

We urge the federal Ministries of Families, Children and Social Development and Agriculture and Agri-Food to continue your work towards a comprehensive, cost-shared, universally accessible National School Food Policy and national school nutritious meal program with provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous partners and stakeholders.⁵ Every investment in children and youth counts.

Sincerely,



Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair
Huron Perth Public Health

BM/ikl

³ Hernandez, Kimberley & Engler-Stringer, Rachel & Kirk, Sara & Wittman, Hannah & McNicholl, Sasha. (2018). The case for a Canadian national school food program. Canadian Food Studies / La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation. 5. 208-229. 10.15353/cfs-rcea.v5i3.260.

<https://canadianfoodstudies.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/cfs/article/view/260>

⁴ Coalition for Healthy School Food. Guiding Principles. 2022. <https://www.healthyschoolfood.ca/guiding-principles>

⁵ Prime Minister Mandate Letters. 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-families-children-and-social-development-mandate-letter> and <https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2021/12/16/minister-agriculture-and-agri-food-mandate-letter>

cc. Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children Community and Social Services; michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org
Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education; minister.edu@ontario.ca
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health; sylvia.jones@ontario.ca
John Nater, MP Perth-Wellington; john.nater@parl.gc.ca
Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce; ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca
Matthew Rae, MPP Perth-Wellington; matthew.rae@pc.ola.org
Honourable Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce; lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
Ontario Boards of Health (allhealthunits@lists.alphaweb.org)
aPHa (info@alphaweb.org)

June 1, 2023

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Email: michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org

Dear Honourable Minister Parsa:

Re: Request for Immediate Funding for Student Nutrition Programs and to Increase Funding for Future School Years

I'm writing to you on behalf of Huron Perth Public Health. HPPH has recently endorsed the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) (CHSF). The Ontario-chapter (ON-CHSF) members – many of whom deliver school breakfast, lunch, snack or other nutrition and food literacy programs – have identified the same concerns with their local *Student Nutrition Programs* (SNPs) as we are seeing locally.¹

Currently across Ontario, many school programs are unable to meet current demands, shutting down before the end of the school year or having to limit the foods served in order to get through to the end of the year, due to insufficient funds. There has not been a substantial annual increase to core Ontario SNP funding since 2014. Many programs have felt the strain for years, but the rising food costs of the last two years² and increased demand have significantly out-paced current funding. Other schools who have not previously had a program are seeing a demand, but there are no funds for new programs.

There are urgent and immediate needs now. Children and youth need access to nourishing food to thrive and, without further investment, many schools will be unable to continue to provide adequate nourishing food through the remaining school year. ON-CHSF members report, projected budget shortfall for future years is substantial.

We are writing to you to highlight the immediate and longer-term funding needs of SNPs in Ontario. The current reliance on fundraising, volunteers, and donations is inconsistent, unsustainable, and disadvantages those schools who most need the support.

A growing body of research demonstrates that school food programs can benefit students' physical and mental health, improve food choices, and lead to student success (e.g. academic performance, student behaviour, and school attendance).³ These programs help reduce the \$5.6 billion/year in costs due to nutrition-related chronic disease injuries in Ontario. Well-designed and non-stigmatizing SNPs also have broad, positive impacts on families, communities, and the economy by reducing household food costs, creating jobs, and strengthening Ontario's agri-food sector.⁴

The Ontario government was among the first provincial governments to fund school food programs in Canada and now provides an annual \$27.9M for SNPs in the province. Since Ontario's initial investment, all provincial and

¹ The national [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) consists of over 250 member and 125 endorser organizations from every province and territory, representing the largest school food network in Canada. Together, we are advocating for the creation of a universal cost-shared school food program that would see all K-12 students in Canada having daily access to healthy food at school.

² [Consumer Price Index, monthly, not seasonally adjusted](#). Statistics Canada. Sept 2021 to Sept 2022, food costs increased 11.5% (have rates this high since 1981).

³ [The case for a Canadian national school food program](#). Hernandez et al., 2018; [Nourishing Young Minds](#). Toronto Public Health, 2012; [The impact of Canadian School Food Programs on Children's Nutrition and Health](#). Colley et al., 2018; [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#)

⁴ [The Burden of Chronic Disease in Ontario](#). CCO & PHO 2019.

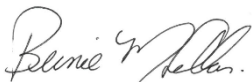
territorial governments have followed Ontario's lead. In response to recent urgent calls for additional funding because of greater participation and rising food costs, which are not unique to Ontario⁵, many provincial and territorial governments have increased their investments in school food. The 2022-23 school food funding increases include: \$500,000 in Newfoundland and Labrador; \$2 million in New Brunswick; \$2 million in emergency funding in Nova Scotia; \$1.3 million in Manitoba; \$16 million in Quebec; \$214.5 million over three years in Budget 2023 in BC; and \$500,000 in the Yukon. Many of these increases are to the programs' annual operating budgets. However, there has not been a substantial annual increase to core Ontario SNP funding since 2014.

We know Ontario's student nutrition programs have greatly appreciated the additional support that MCCSS provided to SNPs throughout the pandemic, and also your recent statement that no student will go hungry under your watch. We ask MCCSS to again recognize the urgent need at this time and to (1) allocate urgent funding to those programs who need it immediately, and (2) allocate more core funding to programs for the 2023/24 and future school years, when significant shortfalls are expected.

As the federal government prepares to release a National School Food Policy and invest in programs across the country, greater provincial investment in Ontario programs will be seen favourably. We believe that there is a great opportunity for Ontario to show further provincial leadership on student nutrition at this time and to ensure students are well-nourished during the school day.

Your attention to this urgent issue is needed.

Sincerely,



Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair
Huron Perth Public Health

cc. Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education (Stephen.Lecceco@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health (sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)
John Nater, MP Perth-Wellington (john.nater@parl.gc.ca)
Ben Lobb, MP Huron-Bruce (ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca)
Matthew Rae MPP Perth-Wellington (matthew.rae@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Lisa Thompson MPP Huron-Bruce (lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org)
Ontario Boards of Health (allhealthunits@lists.alphaweb.org)

⁵ For example, see recent media coverage from [PEI](#) and [Newfoundland and Labrador](#).



June 6, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health, Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos:

Re: Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

The link between alcohol and chronic disease, injury, and death is a significant public health concern.

WHEREAS alcohol is a well-established risk factor for premature death and injury due to unintentional injuries, violence, cancer, liver disease, heart disease, and high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Center on Substance Use and Addiction released new [guidelines](#) and information in January 2023 about alcohol consumption and health; and

WHEREAS within the Public Health Sudbury & District's catchment area, only 37% of adults report that they are aware that consumption of alcohol every day may increase their risk of cancer; and

WHEREAS Public Health Sudbury & Districts has elevated and increasing rates of heavy drinking (27.9% PHSD in 2019/2020, compared with 15.6% for the province); and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Association and multiple Ontario boards of health in Ontario are writing in support of Senator Brazeau's Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages), which, if passed, would require the industry to

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter to Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos

Re: Bill S-254 – An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

June 6, 2023

Page 2

include informative labels on alcoholic bottles discussing health risks and standard drink size;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts similarly convey its support for federally mandated health risk labels on all alcohol containers sold in Canada and urge members of parliament and senators to support Bill S-254.

Based on new guidelines published by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health](#), the health risks associated with alcohol consumption are better known. However, given current perceptions and routine promotions of alcohol consumption within popular culture, a gap exists between the populations' understanding of the associated health risks and alcohol consumption behaviours. A review of data in the area served by the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts points to an evident gap in this understanding.

The Board of Health plays a key role in advocating for the best interests of those who live in Sudbury and districts. Alcohol warning labels, including information about standard drink sizes, empower individuals to make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption and their health.

We thank you for your attention to this important health promoting initiative. We ask that you support Senator Brazeau's call through Bill S-254 to implement alcohol labelling to ensure Canadians make informed decisions about their alcohol consumption and their health.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre

Chair, Board of Health

cc: Patrick Brazeau, Senator
Donald Plett, Senator
Raymonde Saint-Germain, Senator
Scott Tannas, Senator
Jane Cordy, Senator
Marc Gold, Senator
Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Government of Canada
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health, Government of Ontario
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
All Ontario Boards of Health



Thunder Bay District Health Unit

MAIN OFFICE

999 Balmoral Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6E7
Tel: (807) 625-5900
Toll-Free in 807 area code
1-888-294-6630
Fax: (807) 623-2369

GERALDTON

P.O. Box 1360
510 Hogarth Avenue, W.
Geraldton, ON P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0454
Fax: (807) 854-1871

MANITOUWADGE

1-888-294-6630

MARATHON

P.O. Box 384
Marathon High School
building,
14 Hemlo Drive, Suite B
Marathon, ON P0T 2E0
Tel: (807) 229-1820
Fax: (807) 229-3356

RED ROCK

P.O. Box 196
Superior Greenstone District
School Board Learning Centre
46 Salls Street
Suite #2
Red Rock, ON P0T 2P0
Tel: (807) 886-1060
Fax: (807) 886-1096

TERRACE BAY

P.O. Box 1030
19 Hudson Drive, Suite 100
Terrace Bay, ON P0T 2W0
Tel: (807) 825-7770
Fax: (807) 825-7774

TBDHU.COM

July 14, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Jones:

RE: Letter of Support – Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children

On May 17, 2023, at the regular meeting of the Board of Health of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, the Board considered a report on "Physical Literacy Endorsement" and a letter from Public Health Sudbury & Districts to Directors of Education, Local School Boards, Sports and Recreation Organizations and Early Learning Centres, encouraging them to work to improve physical activity levels among children and youth, including agencies that provide comprehensive physical literacy training to teachers, coaches, recreation providers and early childhood educators.

The following Resolution was carried:

THAT with respect to Report No. 27-2023 (Healthy Living and School Health) we recommend that the Board of Health endorse correspondence from Public Health Sudbury and Districts, entitled "Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children;"

AND THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health write a letter of support to the Minister of Health and Deputy Premier;

AND THAT a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister of Education, Local School Boards, Sports and Recreation Organizations, Early Learning Centres and local Members of Provincial Parliament.

Supporting programs that build Physical Literacy among children and youth at the community, recreation, school, and early-years levels will have a positive impact on physical activity levels, academic outcomes,

mental health, and chronic disease prevention. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit fully supports collaboration between agencies to promote physical literacy among children and youth, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Don Smith', is positioned above the printed name.

Don Smith, Chair
Board of Health
Thunder Bay District Health Unit

cc. Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Thunder Bay and District Directors of Education
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, aLPHa
Ontario Boards of Health
Lise Vaugeois, MPP
Kevin Holland, MPP
Thunder Bay and District Social Services Administration Board – Childcare
Services
Local Recreation providers

Attachment

Issue Report

PAGE 1 OF 8

PROGRAM/ DIVISION	Healthy Living and School Health Health Promotion	REPORT NO.	27-2023
MEETING DATE	May 17, 2023	MEETING TYPE	Regular
SUBJECT	Physical Literacy Endorsement		

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 27-2023 (Healthy Living and School Health) we recommend that the Board of Health endorse correspondence from Public Health Sudbury & Districts, entitled "Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children;"

AND THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health write a letter of support to the Minister of Health and Deputy Premier;

AND THAT a copy of the letter be sent to the Minister of Education, Local School Boards, Sports and Recreation Organizations, Early Learning Centres and local Members of Provincial Parliament.

REPORT SUMMARY

To provide the Board of Health with information relative to the request to endorse a letter from Public Health Sudbury & Districts, entitled "Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children."

BACKGROUND

On December 30, 2022, Public Health Sudbury & Districts submitted a letter to Directors of Education, Local School Boards, Sports and Recreation Organizations and Early Learning Centres, encouraging working together to improve physical activity levels among children and youth through collaboration with agencies that provide comprehensive Physical Literacy training.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) is mandated to deliver programs and services that reduce the burden of preventable chronic diseases of public health importance and improve the health of school-aged children and youth. The health of individuals and communities is significantly influenced by complex interactions between social and economic factors, the physical environment, and individual behaviours and conditions. Participating in regular physical activity, and having the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate in physical activity, can reduce the risk of chronic disease, improve academic outcomes and support positive mental health.

Physical Activity Levels

Canadian children are not getting enough physical activity. As highlighted by the 2020 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity and Youth, approximately one-third of children and youth between the ages of 5 and 17 are meeting the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity.

Since 2005 the Ontario Ministry of Education has required that all students in Grades 1-8 have a minimum of 20 minutes of daily physical activity (DPA) during instructional time. A 2013-2014 evaluation indicated only 50% of classrooms in the province met the DPA policy, supporting the need for public health efforts to improve physical activity levels.

According to the 2021 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey report, among students in grade 7-12:

- 21% of students are physically active on a daily basis for at least 60 minutes;
- 20% of students in grades 7-12 rate their physical health as “fair” or “poor” compared to 11% in the 2019 survey; and
- 83% of students spend 3 hours or more a day in front of an electronic screen in their recreational time, compared to 71% in the 2019 survey.

Physical Activity and Physical Literacy

Engaging in regular physical activity is an important protective factor against chronic diseases. Increased physical activity levels also support cognitive development, brain health, and academic achievement and are associated with improved mental health.

“Physical Literacy” is often used interchangeably with terms such as “physical education”, “fundamental movement skills” or “motor skill development”. To ensure a consistent definition and understanding of the term, the International Physical Literacy Association released a consensus statement on the definition of physical Literacy in 2014:

“Physical Literacy is the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life.”

Public health interventions that support the development of Physical Literacy among children and youth can have an effect on physical activity levels later in life. When children and youth have the confidence, competence, and motivation to be physically active, they are more likely to sustain the behaviour change into adulthood.

COMMENTS

TBDHU plans, implements, and evaluates a variety of interventions to promote physical activity and Physical Literacy. In 2018, the City of Thunder Bay and the

Thunder Bay District Health Unit received a grant from the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund to work on a project called “Building Physical Literacy Capacity in Thunder Bay.” Partnering with Sport 4 Life, the project built Physical Literacy capacity in the community by training passionate leaders who work with children in the early years (0 to 6 years) to incorporate Physical Literacy into their programming. These Physical Literacy “Master Trainers” also gained knowledge, resources, and tools to train staff within their own workplace or organization. Sixty-six Master Trainers completed the program from 2018-2020.

Following a gap in Physical Literacy programming from 2020-2022 related to the COVID-19 response and staff re-deployment, Physical Activity Promoters from the Healthy Living Team and Public Health Nurses from the School Health team have resumed collaboration on physical activity and Physical Literacy interventions in schools:

- Currently, a 4-week Daily Physical Activity and Food Literacy Challenge called “Walk Broc and Roll” is running in 20 schools (including 3 District Schools and 2 First Nation Schools). Results of the challenge will be evaluated in June 2023 to determine effectiveness.
- The Healthy Schools Team is fostering environments that promote physical activity during the school day by providing support for the Active Recess program at local schools. Public Health Nurses provide training to peer leaders to organize and lead indoor or outdoor games during recess with an emphasis on inclusion, safety, fun and Physical Literacy.
- Additional plans for Physical Literacy promotion in 2023 include the development of an online Resource Portal for educators and early years providers, a Community of Practice for Physical Literacy Master Trainers, a Social Media Campaign, and Community Events related to Physical Literacy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with this report.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications with this report.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that supporting programs that build Physical Literacy among children and youth at the community, recreation, school, and early-years levels will have a positive impact on physical activity levels, academic outcomes, mental health, and chronic disease prevention;

It is further concluded that the Board of Health should endorse the correspondence from Sudbury & Districts Public Health entitled "Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children".

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Letter from Sudbury & Districts Public Health.

PREPARED BY: Joanna Carastathis, Manager - Healthy Living,
Marianne Stewart, Manager - Family & School Health

THIS REPORT RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
Shannon Robinson, Director – Health Promotion

DATE:
May 17, 2023

Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT 1

LETTER FROM SUDBURY & DISTRICTS PUBLIC HEALTH



December 30, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Directors of Education, Local School Boards
Sports and Recreation Organizations
Early Learning Centres

Dear Recipient:

Re: Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children

At its meeting on October 20, 2022, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #29-22:

WHEREAS being physically active every day helps children and youth perform better in school, learn new skills, build strong muscles, improve blood pressure and aerobic fitness, strengthen bones and reduce the risk of depression¹; and

WHEREAS the implementation of stay-at-home orders, closures of schools, and indoor and outdoor spaces to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is the reduction of physical activity levels in all age groups²; the percentage of youth meeting the Canadian physical activity recommendations for children and youth fell from 50.8% in 2018 to 37.2% in 2020³; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada's national policy document Common Vision for Increasing Physical Activity and Reducing Sedentary Living in Canada: Let's Get Moving identifies physical literacy as the foundation for an active lifestyle⁴. Studies show that children who have high physical literacy scores are more likely to meet national physical activity or sedentary behaviour guidelines⁵; and

WHEREAS physically literate individuals have been shown to have the motivation, confidence, physical competence,

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St. Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter Re: Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children

December 30, 2022

Page 2

knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engaging in physical activities for life^{vi} and these skills help them make healthy, active choices that are both beneficial to and respectful of their whole self, others, and their environment^{vii}; and

WHEREAS the school community offers one of the best opportunities to improve the quality of sport and physical activity participation for children and youth; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require that: "community partners have the knowledge of and increased capacity to act on the factors associated with the prevention of chronic diseases and promotion of wellbeing, including healthy living behaviours, healthy public policy, and creating supportive environments." ^{viii} This includes knowledge of the importance and impact of physical literacy on increasing physical activity participation thereby reducing the risk of chronic disease;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts encourage all area school boards, sport and recreation organizations, and early learning centres to work to improve physical activity levels among children and youth across Sudbury and districts, including through collaboration with Sport for Life Society, Active Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury & Districts, agencies that provide comprehensive physical literacy training to teachers, coaches, recreation providers and early childhood educators; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be shared with the Sport for Life Society, Active Sudbury, local members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario Boards of Health, and area school boards, early learning centres and sport and recreation organizations.

As we look ahead to increase physical activity and to decrease sedentary behaviours in the population; the need for improving physical literacy is greater than ever before. It is crucial that we embrace physical literacy as a catalyst for children and youth to be active and healthy. We know that *it takes a village to raise a child* and the collaboration of multiple sectors to embed physical literacy development in plans, programs, and policies. Therefore the Board of Health for Sudbury & Districts encourages all area school boards, sport and recreation organizations, and early learning centres across Sudbury and districts to work to

Letter Re: Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children
December 30, 2022
Page 3

improve physical activity levels among children and youth through collaboration with agencies that provide comprehensive physical literacy programming, including the Sport for Life Society, Active Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
All Ontario Boards of Health
Constituent Municipalities

ⁱ Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthy Benefits of Physical Activity for Children (2021). Taken from: <https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/basics/adults/health-benefits-of-physical-activity-for-children.html>

ⁱⁱ Science Table. The Impact of Physical Activity on mental Health Outcomes during the COVID-19 Pandemic. (2022) taken from : [The Impact of Physical Activity on Mental Health Outcomes during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table \(covid19-science.ca\)](https://www.covid19-science.ca/)

ⁱⁱⁱ Statistics Canada. The unequal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the physical activity habits of Canadians. (2022) Taken from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/82-003-x/2022005/article/00003-eng.htm>

^{iv} Government of Canada. A common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving. (2018) Taken from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/lets-get-moving.html>

^v Tremblay MS, Longmuir PE, Barnes JD, Belanger K, Anderson KD, Bruner B, Copeland JL, Delisle Nyström C, Gregg MJ, Hall N, Kolen AM, Lane KN, Law B, MacDonald DJ, Martin LJ, Saunders TJ, Sheehan D, Stone MR, Woodruff SJ. Physical literacy levels of Canadian children aged 8-12 years: Descriptive and normative results from the RBC Learn to Play-CAPL project. BMC Public Health. 2018;18(Suppl 2):1036.

^{vi} The International Physical Literacy Association, May 2014. Taken from: <https://physicalliteracy.ca/physical-literacy/>

Letter Re: Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children
December 30, 2022
Page 4

^{vii} Government of Ontario HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, 2019 | The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8. 2019 taken from: <https://preview-assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/fbd574c4-da36-0066-a0c5-849ffb2de96e/db4cea83-51a1-458d-838a-4c31be56bc35/2019-health-physical-education-elem-PUBLIC.pdf>

^{viii} Government of Ontario. (June, 2021) Ontario Public Health Standards: requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability. Taken from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/



Head Office:

247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
PO Box 1090
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Tel.: 705-647-4305 Fax: 705-647-5779

Branch Offices:

Englehart Tel.: 705-544-2221 Fax: 705-544-8698
Kirkland Lake Tel.: 705-567-9355 Fax: 705-567-5476

www.timiskaminghu.com

August 1, 2023

Honourable Minister David Piccini
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Sent Via E-mail

Subject: Request for Air Quality Monitoring Station in the Timiskaming Health Unit region

We are writing to request the installation of a traditional National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) air quality monitoring station within the Timiskaming Health Unit catchment area. The recent smoke from Quebec, Ontario and western Canada wildfires has identified that there is a significant gap in monitoring stations in northern Ontario. This gap in air monitoring and subsequent lack of access to the provincial Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) measurement tool makes it very challenging for agencies and community members to make informed decisions to mitigate negative health outcomes during poor air quality events.

The implementation of a NAPS air monitoring station is crucial to ensure that accurate air quality monitoring data is available to best protect our communities during poor air quality events due to forest fire smoke. The implementation of a NAPS air monitor will provide local community partners with accurate data to increase public awareness and knowledge regarding air quality and its impact on health. Additionally, a NAPS air monitor will enable residents, especially those who are higher risk or caring for those who are higher risk such as children, elderly, and individuals with pre-existing cardiac and respiratory conditions, to make informed decisions during poor air quality events.

As the impacts from climate change continue to rise, the frequency, extent, timing, and duration of the forest fire season is expected to substantially increase¹, further heightening the urgency for effective air quality monitoring in northern Ontario. Monitoring air quality will improve our understanding of the complex interactions between climate change, forest fire smoke and air pollution across the Timiskaming Health Unit region and support the development of targeted strategies to address these interconnected issues.

Please consider this request for the timely installation of a NAPS air quality monitoring station in the Timiskaming Health Unit area. Access to air quality monitoring data will also enable Timiskaming Health Unit to fulfill obligations under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) to protect the health and well-being of our local communities. Furthermore, local air monitoring technology will enhance local public health capacity to mitigate environmental health risks² such as adverse population health outcomes resulting from poor air quality.

Air monitoring technology will also ensure that our residents will have access to accurate and real time air quality data that will empower our communities to make informed decisions, reduce exposure to pollutants and improve overall health outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your positive response and discussing the next steps in implementing air quality monitoring stations in the Timiskaming Health Unit region.

References:

1. Douglas, A.G. and Pearson, D. (2022). Ontario; Chapter 4 in Canada in a Changing Climate: Regional Perspectives Report, (ed.) F.J. Warren, N. Lulham, D.L. Dupuis and D.S. Lemmen; Government of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.
2. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018. Retrieved from:
https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Healthy_Environments_and_Climate_Change_Guideline_2018_en.pdf

Yours sincerely,



Stacy Wight
Board of Health Chair



Dr. Glenn Corneil
Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO

Copy: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health
Honourable Steven Guibeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Bernard Derible, Parliamentary Deputy Minister, Emergency Management, Treasury Board
Secretariat Commissioner of Emergency Management
Honourable John Vanthof, Member of Provincial Parliament Timiskaming - Cochrane
Honourable Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament Timmins
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Member of Parliament, Minister of Health
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Health Agencies (alPHA)
All Ontario Boards of Health
All Member Municipalities of the Temiskaming Health Unit

August 2, 2023

Attention:

The Honourable, Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health of Ontario
City of London Council
County of Middlesex Council
Teresa Armstrong, Member of Provincial Parliament for London Fanshawe
Terence Kernaghan, Member of Provincial Parliament for London North Centre
Peggy Sattler, Member of Provincial Parliament for London West
Rob Flack, Member of Provincial Parliament for Elgin-Middlesex-London
Monte McNaughton, Member of Provincial Parliament for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

RE: Middlesex-London Health Unit 2024 Budget

Dear Premier, Honourable Ministers, Members of Provincial Parliament, City of London Council, and County of Middlesex Council,

The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) is grateful to the provincial government for its continued commitment to keeping the health and safety of Ontarians a top priority, with steadfast financial support for the Health Unit throughout the pandemic. Public health provides a critical foundation for the broader public healthcare system, during pandemics and beyond, through the provision of efficient and effective interventions that keep Ontarians out of emergency departments and hospital beds. Within its mission to protect and promote the health of people in Middlesex-London, the team at the MLHU helps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, prevent illnesses associated with environmental exposures, promote healthy growth and development for babies, children, and youth (including mental health), prevent injuries and chronic diseases, and ensure system readiness for public health emergencies. Investing in public health is therefore a critical long-term, sustainable approach to building a strong healthcare system.

The MLHU Board of Health wants to ensure the province was aware of the significant funding shortfall facing the MLHU in 2024. The MLHU anticipates funding reductions in 2024 with the end of the School Focused Nurses Initiative and COVID-19 Extraordinary Expense Funding. The proposed shift of Mitigation Funding to municipal partners introduces pressures beyond the funding increases required to keep pace with inflation, currently forecasted at 3.9% for 2024. Further, the rapidly increasing population creates greater need; between 2016 and 2021 the population of Middlesex-London grew by 10%.

Without adequate funding, it is anticipated that it will not be possible for the MLHU to execute substantial components of the Ontario Public Health Standards in 2024. One recent example is the MLHU Strathroy Dental clinic, recently opened in [June 2023](#), with capital funds from the Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program to support low-income seniors and low-income children 17 and under. This is a vital program in Middlesex County and has a large waitlist of clients interested in seeking dental care. To date, operational funding has not been provided for this clinic, adding to the list of significant financial pressures facing the MLHU in 2024.

The MLHU shares the concerns of its public health colleagues from across Ontario regarding our collective ability to meet the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#), the legislative guideposts to ensure the health of Ontarians, set out by the Ministry of Health. We ask that the Ministry return the funding to the previous 75:25 Provincial/Municipal allocation, provide an increase to base funding sufficient to reflect ongoing accountability for managing COVID-19 as a Disease of Public Health Significance, and increase funding to address inflationary pressures. Sufficient and stable funding for public health is required to maintain the public health services that are essential to the health of our communities, now and into the future.

Sincerely,



Matt Newton-Reid
Board Chair
Middlesex-London Health Unit



Emily Williams, BScN, RN, MBA, CHE
Secretary and Treasurer
Middlesex-London Health Unit



Dr. Alex Summers MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Middlesex-London Health Unit

CC: All Ontario Boards of Health
Middlesex-London Board of Health Members
David Jansseune, Assistant Director, Finance, Middlesex-London Health Unit

health@mlhu.on.ca

www.healthunit.com

London Office
110-355 Wellington St. | London, ON | N6A 3N7
tel: (519) 663-5317 fax: (519) 663-9581

Strathroy Office
51 Front St. E | Strathroy, ON | N7G 1Y5
tel: (519) 245-3230

Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer
of Health, Public Health

Box 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Fax: 416 325-8412

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste
en chef, santé publique

Boîte à lettres 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Téléc. :416 325-8412

August 22, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Public Health Agency (LPHA) Board Chairs, Medical Officers of Health, Associate Medical Officers of Health, and Chief Executive Officers, Business Administrators

FROM: Dr. Kieran M. Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health, Ministry of Health

RE: Provincial Strategy to Strengthen Public Health In Ontario

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today, at the 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference, the government announced that the province is moving forward with a strategy to strengthen Ontario's public health sector.

I am excited to follow-up with some further details on the key initiatives of this strategy, which are aimed at optimizing capacity, stability and sustainability in the public health sector.

Since the SARS pandemic in 2003, there have been a series of reports that have consistently called for strengthening public health to address critical challenges

such as a lack of capacity and critical mass, structural governance challenges, misalignment of the public health sector with other health and social services, as well as challenges with the public health workforce, including recruitment, retention and leadership. The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the critical importance of a robust public health sector while once again highlighting these challenges.

Through the strategy announced today, the public health sector has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in addressing these challenges. This strategy is grounded in a locally-driven approach, equipped with the provincial supports and resources needed to facilitate change while ensuring that we retain and strengthen front-line jobs and local public health programs and services.

Key initiatives of this strategy include:

1. Clarifying roles and responsibilities through the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)

- Working in close collaboration with the public health sector, the government will initiate a review of the OPHS in order to refine, clarify and strengthen local public health roles and responsibilities, including relationships and alignment across and beyond the broader health care system.
- As part of this review, the government will seek to support Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) by exploring opportunities to shift some roles and responsibilities to a regional or provincial level.

2. Supporting voluntary mergers among local public health agencies

- Mergers among LPHAs have been demonstrated to be an effective solution to long-standing capacity challenges as they have significant potential to increase program delivery resources, including through the pooling of resources, greater ability to recruit and retain staff for specialized roles, and greater ability to manage surge capacity.

- Beginning this fall, the government will work collaboratively with the public health and municipal sectors, and other stakeholders to develop criteria, parameters and accountability mechanisms to support a coordinated approach to voluntary mergers, informed by lessons learned from previous mergers.
- LPHAs will then have the opportunity to submit proposals to the government based on established guidelines and criteria through current reporting mechanisms (e.g., 2024 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission).
- Where there is agreement between LPHAs to merge, the government will provide time-limited supports and resources to facilitate the merger process and support business continuity to ensure program and service delivery stability while change is underway. Any savings realized through mergers can be reinvested by the successor LPHAs to further support capacity and program and service delivery.

3. Providing stable, sustainable funding to LPHAs

- Recognizing the urgent need for stability, the government will restore \$47M in provincial base funding to LPHAs, effective January 1, 2024. This will restore funding for those impacted LPHAs and municipalities to the level previously provided under the 2020 cost-share formula.
- The province will also provide all LPHAs with growth base funding of 1% annually over the next 3 years to further support stabilization while collaborative processes are underway to review roles and responsibilities and facilitate mergers.

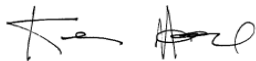
These initiatives will lay the groundwork for a longer-term approach to sustainable funding, including a review of the ministry's funding methodology for public health, based on a renewed and strengthened sector.

The Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health is committed to collaborating with you to implement these initiatives and will be scheduling

meetings in the coming days to facilitate further discussion. If you have any immediate questions, please reach out to Colleen Kiel, Director, Public Health Strategic Policy, Planning and Communications Branch, at Colleen.Kiel@Ontario.ca, and Brent Feeney, Director, Accountability and Liaison Branch, at Brent.Feeney@ontario.ca.

As always, thank you for your continued support as we work to strengthen the public health sector in Ontario.

Yours truly,



Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health, Ministry of Health

c:

- Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Ministry of Health
- Colleen Kiel, Director, Ministry of Health
- Brent Feeney, Director, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Daniel Warshafshy, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
- Dr. David McKeown, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Michelle Murti, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
- Dr. Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health



June 28, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023

Teen vaping has increased steadily across the nation and within Sudbury and districts since 2017. There are significant health risks associated with vaping and nicotine use including lung damage, changes to the brain, dependence or addiction, difficulty learning, and increased anxiety and stress. Furthermore, there is an increased risk for future tobacco cigarette use among youth who vape (Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, 2018).

Bill 103 aims to prevent youth from starting to vape and seeks to decrease vaping rates through a number of important actions, including prohibiting the promotion of vapour products, and raising the minimum age for purchasing vapour products.

At its meeting on June 15, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #35-23:

WHEREAS vaping poses substantial health risks linked to the development of chronic illness, addiction, polysubstance use, as well as risks for injury and death; and

WHEREAS vaping rates among youth have grown with 30.6% of Grade 7 to 12 students in Northern Ontario reporting having used electronic cigarettes(vaping) in 2019, compared with 22.7% for the province; and

WHEREAS Board of Health motion [48-19](#) noted the Board's longstanding history of proactive and effective action to prevent tobacco and emerging product use and urged the adoption of a comprehensive tobacco and e-cigarette strategy; and

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca

WHEREAS [Bill 103 – Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act \(Vaping is not for Kids\)](#), 2023 aims to prevent youth from initiating vaping and decrease the current usage of vaping products by targeting legislation changes, including banning the retail of flavoured vaping products, increasing minimum purchasing age to 21, and prohibiting the promotion of vapor products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse Bill 103 - Smoke Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023; and

FURTHER THAT this endorsement be shared with relevant stakeholders.

Vaping among youth is a complex public health issue that requires immediate action. This suggests that a single intervention or approach will be insufficient to address the high rates of vaping among youth. At Public Health Sudbury & Districts, our efforts in addressing youth vaping involve a multi-faceted, comprehensive, upstream, and strengths-based approach that supports positive youth development. Strategies are community and school-driven and influence risk and protective factors associated with vaping. The strategies include education, policy development, prevention programs, research, collaboration, and enforcement activities, fostering the development of supportive social and physical environments in which youth can thrive and flourish. Yet, this is just one piece in a comprehensive approach addressing youth vaping.

The legislative solutions of Bill 103 are designed to make vaping less available and desirable for youth to address the increase in rates of vaping and to prevent the associated harms of vaping.

We thank you for your attention to this important health promotion initiative, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health for everyone.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: France G  linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
All Ontario boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

alPHA's members are
the public health
units in Ontario.

alPHA Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

Affiliate

Organizations:

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of
Public Health Nursing
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in
Public Health

August 23, 2023

18

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) and its Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, Boards of Health Section, and Affiliate Associations, I am writing to thank you for the commitments you made to local public health as part of your address to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on August 22, 2023.

A healthier population contributes to a stronger economy and reduces demand for costly and scarce health care resources. Local public health agencies provide programs and services that promote well-being, prevent disease and injury, and protect population health. One of our foundational positions is that, regardless of the sources of funding for public health in Ontario, mechanisms must be included to ensure the total funding envelope is stable, predictable, protected, and sufficient for the full delivery of all public health programs and services.

alPHA is pleased about the restoration of the \$47 million in provincial annual base funding and to hear your message to our public health unit members that they can expect a guaranteed increase of 1% of the base funding in each of the next three years and it is a positive step forward. While this may not be sufficient to completely meet our mandate, we do appreciate knowing what our thresholds will be when planning our budgets during this time. alPHA notes your observation this will afford the opportunity and time to work together to address long-standing challenges in the system.

Thank you for recognition of the value of local public health expertise and for the opportunity to help shape the future of local public health. alPHA is committed to our work that supports the Ontario government's goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

We appreciated our recent meeting with you and look forward to collaborating with you further. To schedule a meeting, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHA, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 647-325-9594.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Gardner,
President

Copy: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the CMOH
Brent Feeney, Director, Accountability and Liaison, Office of the CMOH

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to Ontario's boards of health. alPHA represents all of Ontario's 34 boards of health, medical officers and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology, and business administration. As public health leaders, alPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, 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.