

MIDDLESEX-LONDON BOARD OF HEALTH

REPORT NO. 17-24

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
FROM: Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health
DATE: 2024 March 21

QUARTERLY RISK REGISTER UPDATE – Q4 2023

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

- 1) Receive Report No. 17-24 re: “MLHU Q4 2023 Risk Register Update” for information; and
 - 2) Approve the Q4 Risk Register ([Appendix A](#)).
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Report Highlights

- There were ten (10) risks identified in Q3 of 2023.
- No new risks were identified in Q4, nor were any risks removed from the Risk Register.
- Residual Risk in Q4:
 - Five (5) classified as minor risk.
 - Five (5) classified as moderate risk – one (1) Political Risk related to Public Health modernization and mergers has shifted from significant risk to moderate risk.

Background

In January 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (now called the Ministry of Health) implemented modernized Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and introduced new accountability and reporting tools required under the Public Health Accountability Framework.

The OPHS require boards of health to have a formal risk management framework in place that identifies, assesses, and addresses risks. In response to OPHS, the MLHU maintains a Risk Register ([Appendix A](#)) which is a repository for all risks identified across the organization and includes additional information about each risk (priority rating, mitigation strategies, and residual risk). It captures the MLHU’s response and actions taken to address risks, which are monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to the Board.

Q4 2023 Risk Register

There are ten (10) risks identified on the Q4 Risk Register with no risks identified from Q3.

Of the ten (10) risks identified on the Q4 Risk Register:

- Six (6) are high risk.
 - Three (3) carry moderate residual risk within the Financial, Political, and Technology categories.
 - Each risk is receiving effective mitigation to date; however, due to external factors outside of MLHU control, the risk cannot be further mitigated at this time.
- Four (4) are medium risk.
 - Two (2) carry moderate residual risk related to Technology and People/Human Resources risk categories.
 - Two (2) carry minor residual risk related to Technology and Legal/Compliance risk categories.
 - These four (4) risks are receiving effective mitigation strategies to minimize organizational risk to an acceptable level.

Cyber threats remain the largest risk to the agency. The municipal government and health sectors have been targeted of late. To mitigate cyber threats, MLHU works closely with internal partners and cyber insurer to implement and sustain best practices.

This report was written by the Manager, Privacy, Risk and Client Relations.



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Chief Executive Officer



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Medical Officer of Health

This report refers to the following principle(s) set out in Policy G-490, Appendix A:

- The Good Governance and Practices standard as outlined in the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#).
- The following goal or direction from the [Middlesex-London Health Unit's Strategic Plan](#):
 - Organizational Excellence – we make decisions, and we do what we say we are going to do.
 - Direction 4.2 – Develop and initiate an organizational quality management system

This topic has been reviewed to be in alignment with goals under the Middlesex-London Health Unit's [Anti-Black Racism Plan](#) and [Taking Action for Reconciliation](#), specifically recommendation Governance.