



Dear Member,

Please find below the links to a just released discussion paper from Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care outlining proposals to transform Ontario's health system. Highlighted below are the proposed changes related to public health, in particular changes in the relationship between Boards of Health, Medical Officers of Health, public health units and LHINs.

The discussion paper describes four main proposals focussed on: strengthening population and public health and integration at the local level; improving access to primary care; strengthening and standardizing home and community care; and putting patients first and reducing inequities.

The Minister is looking for input and advice. Our Board President Larry Stinson and I have been invited to a stakeholder session this afternoon with the Minister and Deputy Minister. We'll keep you posted as we learn more.

Feedback on the discussion paper can be submitted to [health.feedback@ontario](mailto:health.feedback@ontario). Possible changes to legislation is being considered for the spring of 2016. OPHA will no doubt be reviewing these proposals more closely and developing a submission to the ministry in the coming weeks.

### **Proposals related to Public Health:**

*Integrate local population and public health planning with other health services. Formalize linkages between LHINs and public health units.*

To better integrate population health within our health system, we propose that LHINs and public health units build on the collaborations already underway, and work more closely together to align their work and ensure that population and public health priorities inform health planning, funding and delivery.

To support this new formal relationship:

- The ministry would **create a formal relationship between the Medical Officers of Health and each LHIN**, empowering the Medical Officers of Health to work with LHIN leadership **to plan population health services**.
- The ministry would **transfer the dedicated provincial funding for public health units to the LHINs** for allocation to public health units. The LHINs would ensure that all transferred funds would be used for public health purposes.
- The **LHINs** would **assume responsibility for the accountability agreements** with public health units.
- Local **boards of health** would continue to **set budgets**.

- The respective **boards of health**, as well as land ambulance services, would continue to be **managed at the municipal level**. As part of a separate initiative to support more consistent public health services across the province, the ministry is modernizing the Ontario Public Health Standards and Organizational Standards to identify gaps and duplication in service delivery; determine capacity and resource needs; and develop options for greater effectiveness.
- The ministry would also appoint an **Expert Panel to advise on opportunities to deepen the partnership between LHINs and public health units, and how to further improve public health capacity and delivery**.

**Questions for feedback include:**

1. *How can public health be better integrated with the rest of the health system?*
2. *What connections does public health in your community already have?*
3. *What additional connections would be valuable?*
4. *What should the role of the Medical Officers of Health be in informing or influencing decisions across the health care system*

**Links to the Discussion Paper:**

- [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/docs/discussion\\_paper\\_20151217.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/docs/discussion_paper_20151217.pdf)
- [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/hb\\_20151217.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/hb_20151217.aspx)

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**From:** AMO Communications [<mailto:communicate@amo.on.ca>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 4:46 PM

**To:** Bennett, Karyn

**Subject:** AMO Breaking News - Ontario's Consultation on Primary, Home, and Community Health Care

December 17, 2015

## Ontario's Consultation on Primary, Home, and Community Health Care

Today, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, launched a consultation process on primary, home and community health care, and to strengthen population and public health.

The provincial government in their discussion paper, "Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient Centred Health Care in Ontario", set out a series of proposals for public consultation. This will potentially involve a restructuring of primary and public health service delivery which may have implications for public health. There may also be an opportunity to explore the delivery of community paramedicine as a form of primary care, although this is not included in the scope of the discussion paper.

For public health, there are two major proposals being floated out in the Ministry's discussion paper. The first is to require Public Health Units to participate in formalized planning and joint initiatives with the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).

The second proposal is that public health funding be flowed through the LHINs to Public Health units. This raises a number of significant municipal questions about funding and governance relationships. AMO will assess the appropriateness of such a transfer of responsibility, and if it occurs, provide advice so that it is done under the right conditions. AMO and its members will want to be assured that the Ministry provides a guarantee of current level of public health funding with growth funding within a designated envelope. Further, AMO will want to be satisfied that the LHINs will not be overly prescriptive and still allow for effective Boards of Health functioning and governance.

AMO expects to be involved throughout the Ministry's transformative strategy development and implementation discussions. AMO will be seeking the inclusion of an elected official on any consultation or advisory groups as municipal governments are the cofunders, and in some cases, the employers of Public Health Units.

AMO will be establishing its own municipal officials group to make recommendations directly to the Minister on the consultation paper questions.

The government's discussion paper and information on how to provide your council's input into the consultation are found on the Ministry [website](#). If commenting, we would ask you to provide AMO with your input by contacting Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, so that it can inform our analysis and proposed approach.

In other health related news, the government also announced that the Province is investing \$16.2 million in 1,000 supporting housing units across the province, including \$4 million for 248 supportive housing units in 2016-17. For more information, see the [news release](#).

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