



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2018 February 22

MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING HEALTH UNIT SERVICES TO MIDDLESEX COUNTY RESIDENTS

Recommendation

It is recommended that Board of Health formally commit to:

- a) maintaining office space in Middlesex County to ensure appropriate services for County residents;*
- b) maintaining services to County residents at current levels or greater, and specifically not reducing services provided to County residents in any way related to either the Health Unit's relocation of London-based operations or to the planned review of services provided to County residents; and*
- c) leveraging space and operational improvements created by the Health Unit's location project to improve services to residents of both Middlesex County and the City of London.*

Key Points

- The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) had over 36,000 service interactions in Middlesex County in 2017.
- Most MLHU services are provided in the community, and the location project has always intended to improve these services, not reduce them.
- The Board of Health committed at their January meeting to reviewing Health Unit services provided in the County to ensure appropriate services are being delivered.
- While the clear intention of the Board at their January meeting time was to improve services for County residents, there exists an opportunity now to further clarify Board of Health commitments to County services.

Background

The Middlesex-London Health Unit has been formally engaged in a project to consolidate its London offices since 2015, and launched a three-stage RFP process in the fall of 2016. At the time, significant work was done to gather input from residents of Middlesex County and the City of London.

In addition to gathering input from all areas of Middlesex and London to guide their decision making, the Board of Health also made a specific commitment to ensure that services in Middlesex County are reviewed and strengthened if needed. There exists now an opportunity to clarify that the Board of Health has every intention of maintaining an office in Strathroy, and no intention of reducing services to County of Middlesex residents.

Next Steps

Health Unit staff have already begun compiling and analyzing data regarding services provided to Middlesex County residents. Staff plan to partner with County staff to ensure that the Health Unit's review of County services is well informed and directed by their expertise.

This report was submitted by the Office of the Medical Officer of Health.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie'.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health