



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO
DATE: 2019 July 18

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS FOR STRONG LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommendation

It is recommended that that the Board of Health:

- 1) Receive Report No. 053-19 re: "Essential Components for Strong Local Public Health" for information; and*
- 2) Direct staff to forward the Report in Appendix A to the Minister of Health, other boards of health, and relevant stakeholders.*

Key Points

- Public Health Modernization will result in significant disruption to local public health.
- As the provincial government embarks on this modernization, it is important that key considerations, born out of decades of public health history, be contemplated.
- MLHU has prepared a response paper with key considerations and essential components for strong local public health.

Background

On April 11, 2019, the provincial budget introduced plans to significantly restructure Ontario's public health system, including the dissolution of its 35 health units and creation of 10 new regional public health entities. New boards of health under a common governance model would be established in line with the new regional entities, and substantial adjustments to provincial-municipal cost-sharing would occur over three budget years, as well as a reduction of the overall budget envelope for local public health. Since the announcement in April, the Health Unit has received further information regarding the proposed geographic boundaries and reviewed responses from stakeholders across the province. Please see: https://www.alphaweb.org/page/PHR_Responses.

Response to the 2019 Public Health Modernization

Given the magnitude of the impact that public health modernization will have on Middlesex-London, a response paper titled *Keeping Middlesex-London Safe and Healthy* (see [Appendix A](#)) has been prepared.

The paper outlines four essential components for a strong local public health sector:

1. Maintaining public health's unique upstream population health and disease prevention mandate;
2. Keeping public health at the community level to best serve residents and lead strategic community partnerships;
3. Ensuring public health funding and a strong workforce to fulfill its mandate; and
4. Governance structures that are transparent and locally accountable.

Next Steps

The response paper will be forwarded to the Minister of Health, local boards of health, and other relevant stakeholders. Additionally, MLHU will be participating in consultations regarding public health modernization throughout the summer and fall.

This report was prepared by the Healthy Organization Division.

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

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Medical Officer of Health/CEO