

CORRESPONDENCE – October 2019

- a) Date: 2019 September 18
Topic: Promotion and display of vaping products
From: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
To: The Honourable Christine Elliott, The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor

Background:

On September 18, 2019, the Board of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) wrote to Minister Elliott and Minister Petitpas Taylor calling for stringent restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products. In addition, SMDHU is calling for a ban on flavoured e-cigarettes to help prevent the further uptake of vaping. A 74% increase in vaping among youth in Canada aged 16–19 has been reported between 2017 and 2018, and research demonstrates that marketing of vaping products at retail stores is associated with initiation of vaping by youth and young adults. There is also strong evidence to support the contention that flavoured vapour products attract youth to e-cigarette use. The SMDHU supports a ban on the display and promotion of vapour products at both the federal and provincial levels.

Recommendation: Receive.

- b) Date: 2019 September 19
Topic: Protecting school-age children through immunization
From: Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
To: The Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On September 19, 2019, the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit discussed correspondence received from York Region with regard to protecting school-age children through immunization by supporting a seamless immunization registry. Refer to correspondence item v) in the [June 20, 2019 Board of Health agenda](#).

Recommendation: Receive.

- c) Date: 2019 September 11
Topic: Update on Public Health Modernization
From: Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)
To: alPHa members

Background:

On September 11, 2019, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies issued an update on the government's Public Health Modernization initiative. Consultations have not commenced as yet and the 70/30 cost-sharing arrangement for almost all programs in all health units as of January 1, 2020, has been confirmed. The "special advisor," who will lead the consultation on the restructuring, has not been announced yet.

Recommendation: Receive.

- d) Date: 2019 September 26
Topic: North East Public Health Transformation Initiative
From: Public Health Sudbury & Districts
To: Boards of Health

Background:

On June 20, 2019, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts approved its commitment to its continued collaboration with the boards of health in northeastern Ontario. Refer to correspondence item r) in the [June 20, 2019 Board of Health agenda](#).

Recommendation: Receive.

- e) Date: 2019 September 18
Topic: Provincial plans for modernization of public health service delivery
From: County of Lambton Board of Health
To: The Honourable Doug Ford, The Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On September 18, 2019, the Board of Health for the County of Lambton wrote to Premier Ford and Minister Elliott to express gratitude for delaying the 2019–20 in-year funding changes regarding public health.

Recommendation: Receive.

- f) Date: 2019 September 27
Topic: Completion of Consumption and Treatment Services Application and Site Location
From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
To: The Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On September 27, 2019, the Board of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit wrote to Minister Elliott in support of the completion of the Consumption and Treatment Service Application and Site Location to address rising rates of opioid use in Windsor and Essex County.

Recommendation: Receive.

- g) Date: 2019 September 27
Topic: Leave the Pack Behind
From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
To: The Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On September 27, 2019, the Board of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit wrote to Minister Elliott in support of Peterborough Public Health's concern over the provincial government's decision to cease funding for the Leave the Pack Behind program. Refer to correspondence item j) in the [September 19, 2019 Board of Health agenda](#).

Recommendation: Receive.

- h) Date: 2019 September 27
Topic: Public Mental Health – Parity of Esteem Position Statement
From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
To: The Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On September 27, 2019, the Board of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit wrote to Minister Elliott in support of the adoption by Public Health Sudbury & Districts of the Parity of Esteem Position Statement. Refer to correspondence item g) in the [July 18, 2019 Board of Health agenda](#).

Recommendation: Receive.

- i) Date: 2019 September 27
Topic: Changes to provincial autism supports
From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
To: The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister, Children, Community and Social Services

Background:

On September 27, 2019, the Board of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit wrote to Minister Smith in support of Peterborough Public Health's concern over the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Refer to correspondence item o) in the [July 18, 2019 Board of Health agenda](#).

Recommendation: Receive.

- j) Date: 2019 September 27
Topic: Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) – alcohol choice and convenience
From: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
To: The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance

Background:

On September 27, 2019, the Board of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit wrote to Minister Phillips in support of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health's opposition to expand alcohol retail sales in Ontario.

Recommendation: Receive.

- k) Date: 2019 October 3

Topic: Thank you for your time serving on the Board of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU)
From: Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
To: Ms. Trish Fulton, Chair, Board of Health

Background:

On October 3, 2019, Minister Elliott wrote to Ms. Trish Fulton to thank her for her time serving on the Board of Health for MLHU. Ms. Fulton's current appointment will come to an end on January 8, 2020.

Recommendation: Receive.

- 1) Date: 2019 October 10
Topic: Ontario Names Advisor on Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations
From: Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
To: All Health Units

Background:

On October 10, 2019, Ms. Ryan wrote to all Health Units regarding the Province's appointment of Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Hastings, and former member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Mr. Pine will serve as Advisor for renewed consultations on modernizing public health and emergency health services and facilitate discussions between the Ministry of Health, public health, emergency health and municipal stakeholders. The Association of Local Public Health Agencies will provide further information as it becomes available.

Recommendation: Receive.

September 18, 2019

Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health 10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Ministers:

On September 18, 2019 the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit approved a motion to write to the Ontario and the federal Ministers of Health calling for stringent restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products and to ban flavoured e-cigarettes to help prevent the further uptake of vaping (and with it, the potential risk of smoking commencement) by youth.

Vaping has been rapidly increasing in our youth. A 74% increase in vaping among youth aged 16-19 in Canada was reported from 2017 to 2018 (jumping to 14.6% from 8.4%).¹ Cigarette smoking in the same period increased 45% to reach 15.5% of youth in this age group from 10.7% a year earlier. This is a concerning given that surveys initiated prior to 2018 had reported an ongoing decline in youth smoking; a finding which is consistent with the conclusions of research suggesting that vaping increases the risk of smoking in youth.² Research has also demonstrated that marketing of vaping products at retail stores is associated with youth and young adult initiation of vaping.³

Although vaping is likely to be less harmful than smoking, vaping is not harm free. Vaping can cause ear, eye, and throat irritation. The fine particles and chemicals that are inhaled into the lungs can aggravate existing lung conditions making it harder to breathe.⁴ The risk of heart attack increases with vape use and using both cigarettes and e-cigarettes increases this risk further.⁵ Nicotine addiction is a significant concern associated with youth vaping. Nicotine can change how the teenage brain develops

¹ Hammond, D., Reid, J.L., Rynard, V.L., Fong, G.T., Gummings, K.M., McNeill, A., & O’Conner, R. (2019). Prevalence of vaping and smoking among adolescents in Canada, England, and the United States: repeat national cross sectional surveys. *Bjm*, 365, I2219.

² <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2018/public-health-consequences-of-e-cigarettes.aspx>

³ Loukas, A, Paddock, M., Li, S., Harrell, M., Pasch, E., Perry, C (2019) Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems Marketing and Initiation Among Youth and Young Adults

⁴ Health Canada. (2019-02-04). Vaping: Get the Facts.

⁵ Hess, CA., Olmedo, P., Navas-Acien, A., Goessier, W., Cohen, JE., & Rule, AM. E-cigarettes as a source of toxic and potentially carcinogenic metals. *Environmental Research*, 2017; 152:221 DOI: 10. 1016/j.envres.2016.09.026

□ **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:**
B-865 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

affecting cognitive functions like memory and concentration as well as impulse control and can cause behavioural problems⁶.

A number of serious lung issues associated with vaping occurring in the United States with an unknown etiology has also recently been reported. Health Canada warned in a recent safety alert that vaping products can carry a risk of pulmonary illness. This follows five recent deaths in the U.S. that have been linked to vaping. Health Canada reported that no similar pulmonary illness incidents have been reported in Canada, but the agency is in communication with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) who is investigating 450 cases in 33 states which involve e-cigarettes or other vaping product use.⁷

Complicating matters further in lieu of regulation and restriction are flavoured vapour products. There are over 7000 flavours of e-juice available including candy and fruit flavoured varieties with names that appeal to youth.⁸ There is a strong body of evidence to support that flavours attract youth to e-cigarette use where research concludes that flavour influences youth to try and buy e-cigarettes and the appeal of ads promoting flavours is linked to uptake of vaping by youth.⁹

Presently, there are limited federal restrictions associated with the marketing and promotion of e-cigarettes. Unlike cigarettes, vaping advertising is currently permitted on main stream media including television, radio, newspapers, outdoor signs, print and billboards. There are some regulations to protect youth related to the sale, promotion and flavour of vaping products; however, these regulations are clearly not adequate to stem the increasing uptake of vaping by youth.

Provincially, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA, 2017) originally put comprehensive restrictions on the display and promotion of vaping products similar to tobacco. However, those restrictions were not implemented by the Ontario provincial government before the SFOA, 2017 was enacted. As a result, point of sale display and promotion of vapour products at corner convenience stores, gas stations and grocery chains is widespread and promotional materials from posters to three-dimensional cutouts and packaging displays.

In order to prevent a further increase of vaping among youth and non-smokers in Simcoe Muskoka and to prevent the associated possible risk of cigarette smoking uptake, bans on the display and promotion of vapour products at both the Federal and Provincial level are required immediately. Provincially, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulations need to be strengthened to include a ban on flavoured vape products, as well on the display and promotion of vapour products mirroring the ban on tobacco products. Federally, the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act (TVPA) should also be revised to ban display, promotion and advertising, also mirroring the restrictions on tobacco in the TVPA.

⁶ England, L.J., Bunnell, R.E., Pechacek, T.F., Tong, V.T. and McAfee, T.A., 2015. Nicotine and the developing human: a neglected element in the electronic cigarette debate. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 49(2), pp.286-293.

⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

⁸ Zhu SH, Sun JY, Bonnevie E, Cummins SE, Gamst A, Yin L, Lee M. Four hundred and sixty brands of e-cigarettes and counting: implications for product regulation. *Tobacco Control*, 2014 Jul 1;23(suppl 3):e113-9

⁹ Vasiljevic M, Petrescu DC, Marteau TM. Impact of advertisements promoting candy-like flavoured e-cigarettes on appeal of tobacco smoking among children: An experimental study. *Tobacco Control*, 2016;25(e2):e107-e112.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter for the protection of the health of our youth.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Board of Health Chair

Cc: Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Public Health Association
Ontario Tobacco Research Unit
Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco
Municipal Councils of Simcoe Muskoka
Members of Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Members of Provincial Parliament in Simcoe Muskoka
Central Local Health Integration Network
North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network

September 19, 2019

Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Hepburn Block
10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9
Sent via email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Elliott

RE: Immunization for School Children – Seamless Immunization Registry

At its meeting held on September 19, 2019, the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit discussed correspondence received from York Region with regard to protecting school-age children through immunization.

York Region's Regional Council adopted the following recommendations on May 16, 2019.

- Regional Council endorse the position of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health in support of a seamless immunization registry whereby health care providers directly input immunization information at the time of vaccine administration.

Immunizing children is one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent illness and death from many serious contagious diseases. Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective health interventions in modern medicine.

An electronic system of immunization registry is of critical importance for centralizing data records. Accessing immunization data through Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and the Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR) Integration Project will allow for safe, reliable and seamless access for health care providers to report immunizations directly to public health. This will not only save health care dollars in the long term but will provide an integrated system that will be more efficient and effective.

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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

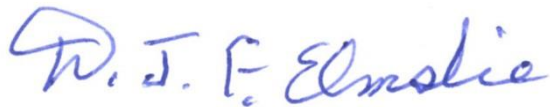


LINDSAY OFFICE
108 Angeline Street South
Lindsay, Ontario K9V 3L5
Phone · 1-866-888-4577
Fax · (705) 324-0455

Minister Elliott
September 19, 2019
Page 2

We appreciate your support for this important public health initiative.

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



Doug Elmslie, Chair, Board of Health

DE/aa

Cc (via email): The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
 Jamie Schmale, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock,
 Kim Rudd, MP, Northumberland-Peterborough South
 The Hon. Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
 David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South
 Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health
 Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health
 Ontario Boards of Health
 Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Attachment

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

Dear alPHa Members,

September 11, 2019

Re: Update on Public Health Modernization

As summer is a time for many of us to step away from the demands of our professional lives, at least for a little while, September means “back to business”, and I would like to welcome you all back from what I hope was a relaxing and enjoyable July and August.

Recognizing that the Government's Public Health Modernization initiative was likely not too far from anyone's mind over the past two months, I would like to take this opportunity to provide information on developments that have occurred since the update that was sent by alPHa's Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, on July 25th.

During the alPHa Conference, on June 11th, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams outlined a process that was to include a consultation during the month of July followed by Ministry analysis of the feedback in August. Although there were some preliminary discussions of proposals in the spring with members of the alPHa Executive (the confidential “Technical Tables” that were mentioned during his conference presentation), no further meetings have taken place and the consultation has not yet commenced.

Shortly after the July 25th member update, alPHa wrote a letter to Dr. Williams requesting further information, given that the timeframe he provided in June had passed. We have not yet received a written response to that letter, but additional details were provided by the Minister of Health at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference on August 19th, with Loretta Ryan (alPHa Executive Director), Paul Roumeliotis (COMOH Chair) and I in attendance.

Minister Elliott confirmed changes to the previously announced cost-sharing arrangement, which will now be 70/30 for almost all programs in all health units as of January 1, 2020, and then announced that a renewed consultation on the restructuring aspect, to be managed by a yet-to-be-named “special advisor”, will begin soon with public health partners and municipalities. This is expected to begin with the release of a discussion paper and we will communicate the details and timelines as soon as possible.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that Dr. Williams will be attending the next meeting of the alPHa Board of Directors, which takes place on September 27th and that both Dr. Williams and the Minister of Health are confirmed speakers at alPHa's November 6th [Fall Symposium](#) in Toronto. These will be further opportunities for direct dialogue with our provincial partners and we hope that the record attendance at our June Conference will be repeated as a further demonstration of the commitment of our membership to working with the Province while ensuring that the capacity and mandate of Ontario's public health system are maintained and, where possible, strengthened.

alPHA remains committed to working hard on behalf of its members to ensure the best possible outcome for Ontario's public health system once the promised consultations begin. Please see alPHA's dedicated web page that houses our communications and updates, statements from other stakeholders, local board resolutions and other related information. Please check this page often and note that further details about the information outlined above can be found there.

(https://www.alphaweb.org/page/PHR_Responses).

We hope that you find this information useful and I look forward to continuing to work with all boards and to ensure effective communication with everyone over the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHA, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 647-325-9594.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen McGregor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carmen McGregor,
alPHA President



North East Public Health Transformation Initiative (Motion #24-19)

Moved by Signoretti – Thain. Approved by Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, June 20, 2019.

WHEREAS since November 2017, the boards of health in Northeastern Ontario, namely the Boards for Algoma Public Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, Porcupine Health Unit, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, and Timiskaming Health Unit, have proactively and strategically engaged in the Northeast Public Health Collaboration Project to identify opportunities for collaboration and potential shared services; and

WHEREAS the Northeast Public Health Collaboration Project work to date has been supported by two one-time funding grants from the Ministry of Health (MOH); and

WHEREAS subsequent to the proposed transformation of public health announced in the April 11, 2019, provincial budget, the work of the Collaboration has been accelerated and reoriented as the Northeast Public Health Transformation Initiative with the vision of a healthy northeastern Ontario enabled by a coordinated, efficient, effective, and collaborative public health entity; and

WHEREAS the Board understands there will be opportunities for consultation with the MOH on the regional implementation of public health transformation;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to the continued collaboration of the boards of health in Northeastern Ontario and looks forward to ongoing MOH support for this work;

AND FURTHER that the Board, having engaged in this work since 2017, anticipates sharing with the MOH its experiences so that other regions may benefit and further anticipates providing to the Ministry its expert advice on public health functions and structures for the North East;

AND FURTHER that this motion be shared with the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health, Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agency, Ontario Boards of Health, AMO, FONOM, and constituent municipalities.

CARRIED

This item was last modified on August 19, 2019

Sudbury
705.522.9200

Chapleau
705.860.9200

Sudbury East
705.222.9201

Espanola
705.222.9202

Manitoulin Island
705.370.9200

Toll-free
1.866.522.9200



Office of the County Warden
789 Broadway Street, Box 3000
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Telephone: 519-845-0801
Toll-free: 1-866-324-6912
Fax: 519-845-3160

September 18, 2019

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

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Attention: The Honourable Doug Ford and The Honourable Minister Elliott

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott:

Re: Provincial Plans for the Modernization of Public Health Service Delivery

I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the County of Lambton Board of Health to express our gratitude in relation to the Ontario Governments decision to delay the 2019-2020 in-year funding changes regarding public health.

During its meeting on September 4, 2019, the County of Lambton Board of Health received a staff report dated August 22, 2019 regarding *Provincial Plans for Modernization of Public Health Service Delivery*. As a result of those discussions, the Board of Health passed the following motion:

#7: *Marriott/Stark:*

- a) *That Lambton County Council thank the Premier and the Minister of Health for listening and responding to feedback by municipalities to delay the in-year 2019-2020 funding changes to public health and other municipally operated health and social services.*

Carried

Thank you for listening to the concerns of public health stakeholders throughout the province. The County of Lambton looks forward to being included in the government's public health consultation process over the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Weber".

Warden Bill Weber
Chair, County of Lambton Board of Health

cc: Bob Bailey, MPP, Sarnia-Lambton
Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
Linda Stewart, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. Ranade, Medical Officer of Health
Andrew Taylor, General Manager

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

On September 19, 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health passed the following Resolution regarding the **Completion of Consumption and Treatment Services Application and Site Location** to address rising rates of opioid use in Windsor and Essex County.

PROPOSED MOTION

Whereas the Government of Ontario announced its funding commitment and endorsement of Consumption and Treatment Services in October 2018, and

Whereas Windsor and Essex County is experiencing significant public health concerns related to the use of opioids and other substance use, including illnesses, deaths, blood borne infections, and public discarding of used needles, and

Whereas Consumption and Treatment Services have the potential to address such public health issues, in addition to reducing health care costs, and

Whereas the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's (WECHU) lead role in the Windsor-Essex Community Opioid Strategy and understanding of harm-reduction services in the community, creates an opportunity for the WECHU to lead the successful completion of a comprehensive and collaborative application for Consumption and Treatment Services in our community, and

Whereas the results of the WECHU-led *Supervised Injection Services Community Consultations Report* demonstrate support and openness among the general public, key stakeholders, and people who inject drugs for an SIS in WEC, and

Whereas the final submission of a CTS application as well as the application for an exemption to the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* requires community consultation and the selection of a proposed location in which to operate.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports the submission of a *Consumption and Treatment Services Application* for the City of Windsor to the Ministry of Health, including the submission of an *Exemption for Medical Purposes under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act for Activities at a Supervised Consumption Site Application* required by Health Canada, and

FURTHER THAT an additional comprehensive community consultation be conducted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to determine a suitable and accessible location for a CTS in the City of Windsor.

We would be pleased to discuss this resolution with you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Chris Harold, Ministry of Health, Manager, Addiction and Substances Policy and Programs
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies – Loretta Ryan
Ontario Boards of Health
WECHU Board of Health
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey



September 27, 2019

The Honorable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

Funding Cancelled for Leave the Pack Behind

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter we received from Peterborough Public Health where they expressed concern at their June 12, 2019 Board of Health meeting over the provincial government's decision to cease funding for *Leave the Pack Behind*.

After 19 years, since the year 2000, of helping young adults quit smoking at campuses across Ontario, *Leave The Pack Behind* learned in a phone call that its funding had actually ended weeks ago — a casualty of Ontario Premier Doug Ford's quest to reduce the province's \$348-billion debt.

Leave The Pack Behind has expanded to 44 post-secondary institutions, worked with 35 public-health units and helped 40,600 people quit smoking, according to Kelli-an Lawrance, the group's director and Associate Professor of Health Sciences at Brock University. She credited the group's success to working with young people to design campaigns that appeal to their peers, as well as the fact *Leave the Pack Behind* offers support via social media campaigns, counselling, phone apps and online tips.

Leave The Pack Behind created an environment that supported and inspired all young adults to live their best life, tobacco-free by fulfilling their mission in 4 ways:

1. Help young adults access free quitting methods that work
2. Advocate for healthy, smoke-free spaces
3. Disrupt the social acceptance of cigarettes and alternative tobacco products
4. Build and share knowledge about how to help young adults avoid and quit smoking

The group was one of the lead authors of Make our Campus Smoke-Free, a manual for students aimed at helping them organize anti-smoking campaigns tailored to the circumstances of their school and student body. The guide has also been adopted by students in other provinces.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls

Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
AMO – Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey



September 27, 2019

The Honorable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

Public Mental Health – Parity of Esteem Position Statement

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter we received from Public Health Sudbury and Districts formally adopting the **Parity of Esteem Position Statement**. This Position Statement asserts that public health equally values mental and physical health.

At its meeting on May 16, 2019, the Sudbury and Districts Board of Health carried the following resolution #15-19:

Whereas the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts recognizes that there is no health without mental health; and

Whereas Public Health Sudbury & Districts intentionally adopts the term, public mental health, to redress the widespread misunderstanding that public health means public physical health;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & District endorse the Public Mental Health – Parity of Esteem Position Statement, May 16, 2019.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit fully supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls

Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
Ms. Pageen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Agencies
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey



September 27, 2019

The Honorable Todd Smith
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Hepburn Block
6th Floor, 80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Smith:

Changes to Provincial Autism Supports

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter from Peterborough Public Health where they received a delegation at their June 12, 2019 Board of Health meeting who provided a detailed presentation of the planned changes to the Ontario Autism Program.

The Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports the province's plan to address long waiting lists and to expand Ontario's five autism diagnostic hubs.

Children on the waitlist will transition to Childhood Budgets with direct funding that will include behavioural services, including assessments and consultations, speech language pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy as well as family/caregiver capacity building and training, respite services, technology aids and travel.

We also share Peterborough Public Health's concern that through these changes funding will be provided directly to families rather than towards a provision of evidence-based programs. We also believe that amounts should be based on a child's need and not their age. Children with autism benefit from appropriate interventions from qualified practitioners (i.e. needs-based supports).

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Steven Lecce, Minister of Education
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Margaret Spoelstra, Co-Chair, Ontario Autism Advisory Panel
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk's office
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey

Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Co-Chair, Ontario Autism Advisory Panel
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk's office
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls



September 27, 2019

The Honorable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South
7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Minister Phillips:

Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health – Alcohol Choice & Convenience

On behalf of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health we are writing to you in support of a letter we received from Dr. Chris Mackie, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) opposing **expanding alcohol retail sales in Ontario**.

Dr. Mackie refers to the Governments release of *The Case for Change: Increasing Choice and Expanding Opportunity in Ontario's Alcohol Sector* Report, and, in particular to Recommendation 8 of the Report stating, "the government should work with retailers, beverage alcohol manufacturers and public health experts to ensure increasing convenience does no lead to increased social costs related to alcohol".

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit fully supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara, Chair
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

c: Premier Doug Ford
Ontario Boards of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)
Local MPP's – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls

Hon. Christine Elliott
Loretta Ryan, Association of Local Public Health Units
WECHU Board of Health
Local MP's – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey

Ministry of Health

Office of the Deputy Premier
and Minister of Health

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Telephone: 416 327-4300
Facsimile: 416 326-1571
www.ontario.ca/health

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du vice-premier ministre
et du ministre de la Santé

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1N3
Téléphone: 416 327-4300
Télécopieur: 416 326-1571
www.ontario.ca/sante



OCT - 3 2019

Ms. Patricia (Trish) Fulton, PhD

Dear Ms. Fulton:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time and effort you have given while serving on the Board of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit.

Your current appointment will come to an end on January 8, 2020. Your commitment as a member of the board has been invaluable and the work you have done has left a lasting impact on all Ontarians. I truly appreciate your contribution and I hope you have found your tenure both challenging and rewarding.

Please accept my best wishes. I hope that you will continue to offer your time and talent in serving the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Elliott".

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Medical Officer of Health

Ontario Names Advisor on Public Health and Emergency Health Services Consultations

October 10, 2019 9:30 A.M.

Today, Ontario announced that Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Hastings and former member of the Board of Directors of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, will serve as advisor for renewed consultations on strengthening and modernizing public health and emergency health services. Pine will play a key role in facilitating productive discussions between the Ministry of Health and public health, emergency health and municipal stakeholders.

"Our government remains committed to working with our partners on modernizing public health and emergency health services," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "Jim will play a key role in the consultation process to determine the best way to deliver these critical services so that we can continue to meet the evolving needs and priorities of Ontario's families. Strengthening both public health and emergency health services is part of our plan to end hallway health care and build a modern, integrated and sustainable health care system."

In his role as advisor to the ministry, Pine will lead consultations that will help inform the design and implementation of the government's reforms to public health and emergency health services. This work will include soliciting input from partners on designing a public health system that is nimble, resilient, efficient and responsive to emerging issues, including ensuring the following:

- Better consistency and equity of service delivery across the province;
- Improved clarity and alignment of roles and responsibilities between the province, Public Health Ontario and local public health;
- Better and deeper relationships with primary care and the broader health care system to support the goal of ending hallway health care through improved health promotion and prevention;
- Unlocking and promoting leading innovative practices and key strengths from across the province; and
- Improved public health delivery and the sustainability of the system.

"I'm looking forward to hearing directly from different communities across Ontario and giving my best advice on how to improve public health and emergency health services," said Pine. "I am confident that, together, we can identify and implement innovative and modern solutions to long-standing challenges."

Through this process, Ontario will continue to engage with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, boards of health, public health experts, Central Ambulance Communications Centres, associations, as well as affected unions and other partners. The consultations will start in the fall 2019 and is expected to conclude in 2020.

QUICK FACTS

- The government has been working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto, and with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies at technical tables since May 2019 to discuss public health modernization.
- The government has maintained current cost-sharing arrangements for public health and emergency health services this year. In addition, the government has increased funding by an average of nearly four per cent for land ambulance services for 2019.
- Jim Pine has been in municipal affairs for 39 years, working as a chief administrative officer in small municipalities, as a city administrator and most recently as the CAO for the County of Hastings.

David Jensen Communications Branch
media.moh@ontario.ca
416-314-6197

Hayley Chazan Senior Manager, Media Relations
hayley.chazan@ontario.ca
416-726-9941

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