



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2023 December 14

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## 2024 ONTARIO BUDGET CONSULTATION - SUBMISSION

### Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Board of Health:*

- 1) *Receive Report No. 82-23 re: “2024 Ontario Budget Consultation - Submission” for information; and*
- 2) *Approve the attached response as [Appendix A](#).*

### Key Points

- [The online portal](#) for the 2024 Ontario Budget has been opened and is providing individuals and organizations the opportunity to provide submissions regarding budgetary priorities.
- With the funding challenges facing local public health agencies, this is an opportunity for the Board of Health to provide their own submission, advocating for sufficient base funding.
- [Appendix A](#) is the draft response to be provided to the Ontario Ministry of Finance by the January 31, 2024 deadline.

### Background

The online portal for the 2024 Ontario Budget has been opened and is providing individuals and organizations the opportunity to provide submissions regarding budgetary priorities. Submissions can be received via a survey or a written submission by January 31, 2024, to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance.

### Proposed Budgetary Items to Highlights

In the draft response to the 2024 Budget Consultation, the following critical priorities are suggested to be highlighted:

- Consistent and sustained funding for the MLHU to conduct work under the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#) that reflects both inflation and population growth in the Middlesex-London region;
- Increased funding for staff working in Vaccine Preventable Diseases to address exponential growth in newcomers to the region, who are frequently unattached to primary care providers;
- Increased funding for Tobacco Enforcement Officers to address massive expansion in cannabis retailers;
- Increased funding for the mandatory Healthy Babies Healthy Children home visiting program, through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, which has been stagnant since 2012;
- Increased funding to support increased demand for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

## Next Steps

[Appendix A](#) contains a draft response to be provided to the Ministry of Finance by the January 31, 2024 deadline.

This report was prepared by the Chief Executive Officer and Medical Officer of Health.



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