

Middlesex-London Board of Health External Landscape Review – February 2023

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform MLHU Board of Health members about what is happening in the world of public health and impacts to the work of the MLHU and Board. This includes governance and legislative changes, news from other local public units, external reports on important public health matters, learning opportunities and MLHU events. **Please note that items listed on this correspondence are to inform Board members and are necessarily an endorsement.**

National, Provincial and Local Public Health Advocacy

2023 Provincial Budget Consultations



The Government of Ontario is looking for input on the 2023 Budget using an online survey, written submissions and public hearings. The government's online survey launched on January 11, 2023

Respondents are invited to choose their top two or three priorities from a list of options under each of nine topic areas – it is noted that when you click “other” as an option in the survey, you are given the opportunity to provide more information on priorities. This is an opportunity to highlight public health priorities.

The 2023 Provincial Budget Survey closes on February 11, 2023. [Click here to review the 2023 Budget Survey!](#)

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Province of Ontario (Ministry of Health) is a large funder of public health services in the community. It is vital for members of boards of health (especially autonomous boards such as MLHU) to provide their feedback with the future of our funding.

2023 Federal Budget Consultations

The federal government is seeking your ideas about how to help Canadians succeed while building stronger, greener, more competitive, more innovative, and more inclusive Canadian economy.

This is your opportunity to share what is most important to you! What challenges do you see ahead of us? What should the government be focused on? What great ideas do you have? This is an opportunity to highlight public health priorities.



The 2023 Federal Budget Survey closes on February 11, 2023. [Click here to review the 2023 Budget Survey!](#)

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

While the provincial government is a large funder of public health services in the community, MLHU often gets grants and support for important projects from funders such as Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada. It is vital for members of boards of health (especially autonomous boards such as MLHU) to provide their feedback with the future of our funding.

Local Public Health News

Burden of Health Conditions Attributable to Smoking and Alcohol by Public Health Unit in Ontario



Public Health Ontario and Ontario Health have released a new report [Burden of Health Conditions Attributable to Smoking and Alcohol by Public Health Unit](#). This report provides estimates of the number of deaths, hospitalizations and emergency department visits caused by smoking and alcohol consumption at the

provincial level, as well as by public health unit.

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Board has supported many consultations and initiatives related to smoking and alcohol consumption reduction in the community.

Learning and Networking Opportunities

2023 aIPHa Winter Symposium and Section Meetings



aIPHa is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the online [aIPHa Winter Symposium and Section meetings](#) that are taking place on **Friday, February 24, 2023**.

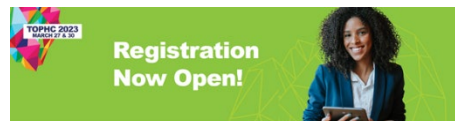
There is also a [Pre-Symposium Workshop being held called Road 2 Mental Readiness \(R2MR\) on February 23, 2023!](#) The workshop was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces for public health leaders and is based on a cycle that entails preparation, performance, and recovery. Board Members who have been registered for the symposium are automatically enrolled and this workshop is optional.

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

aIPHa provides many resources, networking and advocacy opportunities for board members in the province. There are also, sessions specific to board members to learn and reflect on their important roles in the community.

Ontario Public Health Convention (TOPHC) 2023

The [Ontario Public Health Convention](#) will be held on **Monday, March 27, 2023** virtually! #TOPHC2023 is created by and for public health professionals and will deliver workshops, presentations, and keynotes focused on the unique experiences, challenges and opportunities in public health today.



The goals of the conference include:

- Describe implementation and impact of evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies, programs, and policies to promote and protect the public's health.
- Identify considerations and approaches for enhancing collaboration and partnerships to address current and emerging public health issues.
- Recognize gaps in and challenges to current public health practice and policy and discuss opportunities and potential solutions to address these gaps.
- Applying new/enhanced skills to questions and concerns facing public health professionals and our clients.

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

TOPHC is a group/conference that is created by public health professionals, and provides board members a background on emergent public health matters. TOPHC is supported by Public Health Ontario and aIPHa, combining public health advocacy and education for board members and future board members.

MLHU Events

The following message was shared with all staff, on the anniversary of first COVID-19 Case in Middlesex-London



On January 31, 2020, Middlesex-London was notified of our first case of COVID-19.

While members of the MLHU staff had been working behind the scenes for several days leading up to January 31st, 2020, the announcement of our region's first case really was a turning point for all of us. It was the moment when the feeling that things were about to change in a big way first started to creep into our conversations and our work.

We will forever be grateful for your efforts and hard work in rising to meet the challenges of our pandemic response and for being committed to seeing things through. As we draw nearer to the anniversary of the declaration of the pandemic, we want to thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. While this experience continues to shape public health, it has also shown the tremendous value that public health professionals add to our communities, and to our quality of life.

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all areas of our lives. It is important to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of those who supported it and recognize that the community supported and assisted MLHU in the work they had to do to keep people safe.