



May 4, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Jones:

Re: Support for the 2022 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario

Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health) applauds the Chief Medical Officer of Health for highlighting the importance of public health readiness, collective action, and sustained investments in public health required to minimize the impacts of future pandemics on individuals, communities, and societies in his 2022 annual report: *Being ready: Ensuring public health preparedness for infectious outbreaks and pandemics*.

As the communities of Sudbury and districts transition through the recovery phase of the pandemic, the Report is a call to action to learn from our experience, so we are better prepared to not only protect ourselves, but to also invest in building strong and resilient systems and communities that create opportunities for the best health possible for all.

At its meeting on April 20, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #19-23:

WHEREAS on March 7, 2023, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health released his 2022 Annual Report titled, Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemic; and

WHEREAS the 2022 Annual Report identified six next steps, including to (1) invest in preparedness, (2) strengthen accountabilities, (3) assess progress, (4) improve the health of Indigenous peoples, (5) improve the health of Black and other racialized populations, and (6) sustain relationships; and

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WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to taking local action in support of these next steps and to do so requires sustained provincial investment in public health preparedness over time;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts call on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to fully support and implement the recommendations outlined in the Chief Medical Officer of Health 2022 Annual Report, including ensuring associated sustained funding for local public health;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board request the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure proactive engagement with local public health agencies as work is undertaken to review and strengthen the relevant Ontario Public Health Standards, including the Emergency Management Guidelines;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board share this motion with relevant stakeholders, including area mayors and reeves, local community partners, Ontario boards of health, and provincial partners and agencies.

Members of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts echo the Chief Medical Officer of Health's call to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and call on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to fully support and implement the recommendations outlined within, including ensuring associated sustained funding for local public health.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to ongoing investments in our own readiness, and to supporting the readiness of the public health sector and system, the communities we serve, and society overall. We all have a role to play in public health emergency preparedness, and we look forward to strengthening our relationships and collaborations to foster healthy and equitable communities.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
All Ontario Boards of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies