

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

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform the 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 not necessarily an endorsement.**

National, Provincial and Local Public Health Advocacy

Official opening of Carepoint Consumption and Treatment Centre in London

On February 28, 2023, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC), along with partners London Intercommunity Health Centre (LIHC) and the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) were pleased to share the opening of the Carepoint Consumption and Treatment Centre at 446 York Street in London.



Photos taken by Middlesex-London Health Unit's Communications Team

Carepoint has been operating out of a temporary trailer on the property front at 446 York since end of June 2022. This transition has helped to orient service users to the intended long-term location of the program which has continued to run from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven days a week, including statutory holidays. The Carepoint program has seen the demand for its services continue throughout the pandemic. The program is a vital lifesaving service and wraparound support for many of London's most marginalized citizens and remains a critical part of the care continuum in our community.

To learn more about Carepoint, visit both [RHAC's website](#) and [MLHU's website](#).

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Board first supported the Temporary Overdose Prevention site in 2018, and with the support of community partners, there is now a permanent site. This site provides an essential service to reduce harms associated with drug use, including opioid-related overdoses. The Board has continued to support MLHU and its partners in creating safe spaces and education for people who use drugs.

COMMUNITY SUMMIT:

HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

working to support a new model of integrated hubs around London and Middlesex County. These hubs are being designed across multiple sectors to support those seeking a healthy lifestyle who are also experiencing homelessness. There will be 12-15 hubs, with 600 housing support opportunities being created over a 3-year period.

City of London staff brought a recommendation for implementation for these integrated hubs to the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee in [this report](#) on **February 28, 2023** and will be further discussed at City of London's council meeting on **March 7, 2023**.

Health and Homelessness Summits

MLHU along with over 200 community partners have been participating in Health and Homelessness Summits, which are

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

Homelessness is a crisis that is being faced in Middlesex-London with significant impact on the health of the community. The Health Unit continues to support community-driven collaborative solutions to address the immediate crisis and underlying causes.

City of London Strategic Plan

Every four years, the City of London prepares a Strategic Plan that identifies the shared vision, mission and priorities that will guide the City's next four years. The Strategic Plan reflects the needs and expectations of the community and drives decision-making through the Multi-Year Budget and the City's Technology Investment Strategy.

Council will be reviewing the draft Strategic Plan at the March 28, 2023 Council meeting.



For more information, visit the [Strategic Plan website](#) and [take the Strategic Plan survey](#) to share your thoughts.

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The MLHU has been actively engaged by the City of London to review areas of focus, expected results, strategies, draft metrics and order of magnitude costing for the City of London 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. This is an opportunity for public health to support future activities within the City's Strategic Plan to promote health, wellness and plan for services within the community.

Local Public Health Unit News



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

New Medical Officer of Health in Renfrew County and District

The Board of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has announced that **Dr. Jason Morgenstern, MD MPH FRCPC**, has been appointed as permanent, full-time Medical Officer of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit, effective April 3, 2023.

To read the media release from February 28, 2023, please visit [Renfrew County and District Health Unit's website](#).

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Board supports collaboration and connection with other public health units in the province, and encourages the MLHU's Medical Officer of Health to work with other Medical Officers of Health as necessary for advocacy and idea sharing.