

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

August 23, 2023

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and its Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, Boards of Health Section, and Affiliate Associations, I am writing to thank you for the commitments you made to local public health as part of your address to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on August 22, 2023.

A healthier population contributes to a stronger economy and reduces demand for costly and scarce health care resources. Local public health agencies provide programs and services that promote well-being, prevent disease and injury, and protect population health. One of our foundational positions is that, regardless of the sources of funding for public health in Ontario, mechanisms must be included to ensure the total funding envelope is stable, predictable, protected, and sufficient for the full delivery of all public health programs and services.

alPHa is pleased about the restoration of the \$47 million in provincial annual base funding and to hear your message to our public health unit members that they can expect a guaranteed increase of 1% of the base funding in each of the next three years and it is a positive step forward. While this may not be sufficient to completely meet our mandate, we do appreciate knowing what our thresholds will be when planning our budgets during this time. alPHa notes your observation this will afford the opportunity and time to work together to address long-standing challenges in the system.

Thank you for recognition of the value of local public health expertise and for the opportunity to help shape the future of local public health. alPHa is committed to our work that supports the Ontario government's goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

We appreciated our recent meeting with you and look forward to collaborating with you further. To schedule a meeting, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 647-325-9594.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles Gardner,
President

Copy: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the CMOH
Brent Feeney, Director, Accountability and Liaison, Office of the CMOH

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to Ontario's boards of health. ALPHA represents all of Ontario's 34 boards of health, medical officers and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology, and business administration. As public health leaders, ALPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, ALPHA's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.