

December 22, 2023

Brent Feeney  
Director, Accountability and Liaison Branch  
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Public Health Ministry of Health

Dear Brent Feeney:

**Re: One-Time Funding Opportunities to Support PHI Practicum Positions**

On behalf of the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPPIO), I am writing to encourage the Ministry of Health to continue to provide opportunities for public health units to apply for one-time Ministry of Health funding in 2024 to support hosting public health inspector (PHI) practicum positions. It is our understanding that the 2024 Annual Service plan template does not include opportunity for one-time funding requests, other than to support voluntary merger proposals. We further understand that there may be opportunities to request one-time funding in year once the Ministry of Health budgets are established for 2024-2025. Though opportunities for one-time funding are always welcome, opportunities for funding later in the year pose a significant concern from a PHI practicum position perspective as many public health units initiate the hiring process early in the calendar year. Should opportunities for one-time funding not be available, or be offered later in the year, this could negatively impact the number of practicum positions offered by public health units and ultimately the number of candidates eligible to sit the CIPHI Board of Certification Exam.

ASPPIO's White Paper [Highlighting the Vital Role of Public Health Inspectors Within a Responsive and Effective Public Health Workforce](#), highlights the urgent need to invest in the PHI workforce at every stage of the professional pipeline. Successful completion of a practicum is a mandatory requirement for candidates to be granted a Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Many public health units see candidates return for employment post-certification, including those in rural and northern areas of the province experiencing PHI recruitment and retention challenges. Ministry of Health funded practicum positions are an excellent investment in the public health system, and support both the candidate and the hosting public health unit. Provincial funding is an essential support for public health units in offering paid practicum positions, which ultimately supports additional newly certified PHIs entering the workforce to carryout critical programming under the Ontario Public Health Standards and public health legislation.

ASPHIO urgently requests that the Ministry of Health consider providing opportunities for public health units to apply for one-time funding to support PHI practicum positions during this phase of the Annual Service Plan submission. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss this matter and can be reached at [chair@asphio.ca](mailto:chair@asphio.ca).

Sincerely,



Stacey Laforest  
ASPHIO Chair

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health  
Carrie Warring, Director, Health Protection, Policy and Partnerships Branch  
Ali Sunderji, Manager, Environmental Health Policy and Programs Unit  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
John Cannan, CIPHI Ontario Branch President  
Ken Diplock, CIPHI Ontario Branch President Elect  
Gary Tam, CIPHI Board of Certification Chair