



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

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

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February 10, 2023

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg Rm 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

Re: Boards of Health – Order in Council Appointments

On behalf of the Boards of Health Section of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), we are writing to you with regards to delays in Order-in-Council appointments to local boards of health under Section 49 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

Ontario's boards of health are at the forefront of the important decisions that are aimed at keeping people healthy throughout the province, and their success depends on stability and consistency within their membership. This is especially important in the immediate aftermath of municipal elections, which already have a significant destabilizing effect every four years.

24 out of 34 Ontario Boards of Health depend on provincial appointees to maintain their necessary complement, and the delays they are already reporting in securing these appointments are having a detrimental effect on their governance and accountability roles, as well as their engagements with their respective public health units, local councils, and community partners.

This is not the first time we have been faced with this issue, which we also raised with you via [correspondence](#) in June of 2020. At that time, several boards reported that their requests for appointments were not responded to, not approved, or approved for only a limited time. The uncertainty, interruption of continuity and simple depletion of the ranks compromised the capacity for sound decision-making on local public health matters in many areas, and we worry that this is being repeated.

We hope that provincial appointments will soon be announced. Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa at 416-595-0006, x 222 or loretta@alphaweb.org.

Sincerely,

Carmen McGregor,
Chair, Boards of Health Section

Trudy Sachowski,
President, alPHa

COPY: Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Siobhan Corr, Manager (Acting), Public Appointments Secretariat

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario. 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.