

## **CORRESPONDENCE – May 2021**

- a) Date: April 7, 2021  
Topic: National Childcare Strategy and the Licensed Child Care Network  
#IAmEssential Campaign  
From: Licensed Child Care Network  
To: Board of Health Members

### ***Background:***

In February 2021, the Licensed Child Care Network launched the #IAmEssential campaign to increase the attention and awareness to further the call for a National Childcare Strategy. The campaign features local early years professionals, who have continued to support families during COVID-19, when childcare was essential for both those parents that could not work from home, as well as for some of those who were able to work from home. The London for All: A Roadmap to End Poverty (2016) report contained 112 recommendations to tackle poverty in our community. Under 6.0 Early Learning and Education, recommendation 6.6 calls the community to “Support development of [a] national childcare strategy”. As discussions with various community partners ensued, it was clear they were hoping the Middlesex-London Health Unit could significantly contribute to efforts to move this recommendation forward.

### ***Recommendation: Endorse.***

- b) Date: April 26, 2021  
Topic: 2021 alPHa Annual Conference  
From: Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
To: Board of Health Members

### ***Background:***

alPHa is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Conference: Ontario’s Public Health System: Challenges – Changes – Champions! alPHa is holding this online event with co-hosts the Northwestern Health Unit and the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Due to COVID-19, this conference will be held via videoconferencing software on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Recommendation: Receive.***

- c) Date: April 26, 2021  
Topic: Basic Income for Income Security during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond  
From: Chair Kevin Marriott, Lambton Public Health  
To: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., MP and The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.

### ***Background:***

At its meeting held on February 3rd, 2021, Lambton County Council received correspondence to the federal government from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit dated November 20, 2020 with respect to using a basic income to address food security. This letter expressed support for these efforts to provide income solutions to reduce food insecurity.

***Recommendation: Receive.***

- d) Date: April 29, 2021  
Topic: Support for Decriminalization of People Who Use Drugs  
From: Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health  
To: The Honourable Patty Hajdu

***Background:***

At the KFL&A Board of Health meeting held on April 28, 2021, the following motion was passed: THAT the KFL&A Board of Health support the call for the decriminalization of people who use drugs as an evidence-informed approach that will address the unrelenting overdose crisis in our community and fully acknowledge that substance use is a health issue and not one of morality, will power or criminal justice. The opioid crisis continues to devastate communities across Canada. Urgent action is needed to address current drug policies that cause harm to people who use drugs and to disrupt alarming drug overdose trends across the country.

***Recommendation: Refer to staff for a report.***