



MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

REPORT NO. 098-12

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2012 September 13

SOUTH WEST PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS - MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health endorse the Mutual Assistance Agreement for South West Public Health Units attached as Appendix A to Report No. 098-12.

From time to time, situations arise that overwhelm the resources of one health unit leading to a call to neighbouring health units for assistance. In the case of this Health Unit, two such occurrences are the mass immunization campaign for meningococcal disease of 2001 and the mass immunization campaign for hepatitis A of 2002.

On the other side, support from this Health Unit was provided to Toronto Public Health during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003 and to the Oxford Public Health Unit for a Rubella (German Measles) outbreak in 2005; as well, staff support was offered to the Huron County Public Health Unit during the 2011 tornado episode.

To facilitate such responses, representatives from the South West Ontario Public Health Units have prepared the Mutual Assistance Agreement attached as Appendix A. This document defines the various parameters which would apply to future situations requiring neighbouring health unit assistance, including: how costs and their payments are to be addressed; liability indemnification on the part of the assisting health unit; and the employment relationship of staff of the assisting health unit when providing services in a neighbouring health units jurisdiction. The Perth District Health Unit has taken the lead for this initiative drawing upon the Mutual Assistance Agreement in place for the Central West Public Health Units.

Responding to an urgent situation requiring may require immediate assistance from one or more neighbouring health units. Having a mutual assistance agreement in place will facilitate arranging for this assistance in a timely, efficient manner. It is therefore recommended that the Board of Health endorse the Mutual Assistance Agreement for the Southwest Public Health Units attached as [Appendix A](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham L. Pollett'.

Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

<p>This report addresses the following requirement(s) of the Ontario Public Health Standards: Public Health Emergency Preparedness</p>
