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**Haldimand-Norfolk
Health and Social Services Advisory Committee
REVISED AGENDA**

January 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

**Norfolk County Administration Building
50 Colborne St. S., Simcoe ON**

	Pages
1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	
2. Additions to Agenda	
3. Presentations/Deputations	
4. Adoption/Correction of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes	
4.1 Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services Advisory Committee - November 27, 2023	3
5. Update on Reports	
6. Consent Items	
7. Staff Reports	
7.1 Public Health	
7.1.1 Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Suspension Process, HSS-24-001	9
8. Sub-Committee Reports	
9. Communications	
9.1 December 2023 alPHA InfoBreak	15
*9.2 January 2024 alPHA InfoBreak	35
10. Other Business	
11. Closed Session	

11.1 Verbal Update - Strengthening Public Health
Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended as the
subject matter pertains to:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including
municipal or local board employees;

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

12. Next Meeting

12.1 Monday, February 26, 2024

13. Adjournment

Haldimand-Norfolk
Health and Social Services Advisory Committee

November 27, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Council Chambers

Present: Chris Van Paassen, Linda Vandendriessche, Alan Duthie, Shelley Ann Bentley, John Metcalfe, Patrick O'Neill

Also Present: Christina Lounsbury, Syed Shah, Stephanie Rice, M. Vansickle, Senior Financial Analyst, A. Atkinson, Program Manager, Environmental Health, Megan Jamieson, Lori Friesen, Dr. Lock, Acting Medical Officer of Health, K. Devine, Administrative Assistant, A. Vesprini, Supervisor, Financial Management and Planning

1. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. Additions to Agenda

3. Presentations/Deputations

3.1 Greater Hamilton Health Network

Sharon Moore and Melissa McCallum from the Great Hamilton Health Network provide a presentation on Building Community Health.

Moved By: Alan Duthie

Seconded By: John Metcalfe

THAT the Greater Hamilton Health Network presentation be received as information.

Carried.

3.2 Brant, Brantford, and Norfolk Health Team

Peter Szota from the Brant, Brantford and Norfolk Health Team provided a presentation on Ontario Health Team Governance and Leadership Structure.

Moved By: Linda Vandendriessche

Seconded By: Alan Duthie

THAT the Brant, Brantford and Norfolk Health Team presentation be received as information.

Carried.

4. Adoption/Correction of Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

4.1 Health and Social Services Advisory Committee - October 23, 2023

Moved By: John Metcalfe

Seconded By: Chris Van Paassen

Carried.

5. Update on Reports

General Manager of Health and Social Services, Sarah Page mentions that all reports have been approved at Board of Health and Council. No other updates to provide.

6. Consent Items

7. Staff Reports

7.1 Social Services and Housing

7.1.1 Ontario Works One Time Funding 2024, HSS-23-065

Moved By: Linda Vandendriessche

Seconded By: Patrick O'Neill

THAT staff report HSS-23-065, Ontario Works One Time Funding 2024, be received as information.

Carried.

7.2 Public Health

7.2.1 HNHU 2022 Annual Report and Attestation, HSS-23-061

Moved By: Chris Van Paassen

Seconded By: John Metcalfe

THAT the report HNHU 2022 Annual Report and Attestation be received as information;

AND THAT the Board of Health endorse the Chair of the Board to sign the 2022 Annual Report and Attestation;

AND FURTHER THAT the signed report be submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Carried.

7.2.2 Vector-Borne Disease Program Update 2022-2023, HSS-23-062

Moved By: Linda Vandendriessche

Seconded By: Alan Duthie

THAT Staff Report HSS 23-062, Vector-borne Disease Program Update 2022-2023, be received as information;

AND THAT the Board of Health support the HNHU's Vector-borne program activities which include active surveillance, and education regarding prevention strategies for vector-borne diseases.

Carried.

7.2.3 Proposed 2024 Haldimand-Norfolk Shared Services Budget, HSS-23-064

Moved By: Chris Van Paassen

Seconded By: Linda Vandendriessche

THAT report HSS-23-064 Proposed 2024 Haldimand-Norfolk Shared Services Budget be received as information;

AND THAT the levy supported amounts for Social Services and Housing Services be endorsed for inclusion in the Proposed 2024 Levy Supported Operating Budget for Norfolk County;

AND FURTHER THAT the Proposed 2024 Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit Operating Budget (Appendix B) be endorsed and forwarded to the Board of Health for approval.

Carried.

8. Sub-Committee Reports

9. Communications

9.1 November alPHa InfoBreak

10. Other Business

10.1 Draft Revised Terms of Reference

Moved By: John Metcalfe

Seconded By: Alan Duthie

That the Haldimand Norfolk Health and Social Services Advisory Committee here by recommends Norfolk County Council that Draft Revised Terms of Reference be approved.

Carried.

11. Closed Session

11.1 HSS-23-067 - Strengthening Public Health

Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended as the subject matter pertains to:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

Moved By: Alan Duthie

Seconded By: John Metcalfe

THAT the closed report HSS-23-067 Strengthening Public Health be received as information;

AND THAT staff have been provided direction to put forth to the Board of Health.

Carried.

11.2 HSS-23- 068 - COVID Funding Update

Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended as the subject matter pertains to:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

Moved By: Linda Vandendriessche

Seconded By: Chris Van Paassen

THAT closed report HSS-23-068 COVID-19 Funding update be received as information;

AND THAT staff have been provided direction to put forth to the Board of Health.

Carried.

11.3 Verbal Update - Housing Proposal

Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended as the subject matter pertains to:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

Moved By: John Metcalfe

Seconded By: Alan Duthie

THAT the verbal update on Housing Proposal be received a information;

AND THAT staff will bring forth a report for Council to review.

Carried.

12. Next Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023 if needed

13. Adjournment

Moved By: John Metcalfe
Seconded By: Alan Duthie

12:05pm

Carried.

Chair

Clerk



Board of Health Meeting – February 06, 2024

Advisory Committee Meeting – January 22, 2024

Subject: Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Suspension Process
Report Number: HSS-24-001
Division: Health and Social Services
Department: Public Health
Purpose: For Information

Recommendation(s):

That Report-24-001 Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) Suspension Process, be received as information.

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update to the Board of Health (BOH) on the Immunizations of School Pupils Act (ISPA) enforcement process. As per the Ontario Public Health Standards the BOH shall comply with the Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Settings (MOHLTC, 2018). Every year the Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Team takes steps to ensure the Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit (HNHU) fulfils this mandate by implementing an ISPA enforcement process. Ongoing immunization programs that are successful in ensuring high vaccine coverage rates for ISPA mandated vaccines are needed to maintain low levels of vaccine preventable diseases.

Discussion:

Why are Immunizations Important?

Immunizations save lives. They prevent serious illness and are recognized as one of the most effective public health interventions of modern times. Immunizations provide protection by helping the body make its own defenses (or antibodies) against certain diseases. “Thanks to vaccines, infectious diseases that were the leading cause of death 100 years ago are now the cause of less than five percent of all deaths in Canada” (MOHLTC, 2015, pp.2).

What is the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)?

ISPA was enacted to increase the protection of school aged children against certain designated vaccine preventable diseases. Outbreaks of these diseases are adverse to those who become ill and place vulnerable populations at risk. It also is costly to the healthcare system. ISPA requires that students attending primary and secondary school be immunized against designated diseases (see Appendix A) or have a valid exemption on file (ISPA, 1990). Should an outbreak or a risk of an outbreak occur, those children without sufficient proof of immunization may be excluded from school under section 22 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA, 1990).

To meet these regulatory obligations, the BOH is required to collect, maintain, and assess records of immunizations of students attending schools within the Health Unit's jurisdiction. These records are reviewed by the VPD team to identify any student who has not completed the prescribed program of immunization. As authorized by statute, the Medical Officer of Health has the authority to temporarily suspend students from school if parents and/or students have not complied with the legislation.

Health Units role in implementing the Immunization of School Pupils Act

The Health Unit has commenced its annual review of immunization records for all students aged 7, 8 and 17 years of age (birth cohorts 2016, 2015 and 2007). A total of 1,464 notifications were mailed in November 2023 to parents and/or students who had incomplete immunization records on file with the Health Unit. Again, in January 2024, the records were reassessed, and a remaining 1,080 students received a Suspension Order in the mail. Parents and students have been provided with numerous options to resolve their immunization issues. Where students have received immunizations that have not yet been reported to the Health Unit, updated information can be provided by the parent, student, or the primary healthcare provider via fax, telephone, online, email or in-person.

Students requiring immunizations can:

- Make an appointment with their family physician or nurse practitioner
- Attend a HNHU in-school vaccination clinic (High Schools – December 2023)
- Make an appointment to visit the HNHU offices

Students with medical exemptions or conscientious/religious exemptions are also accommodated by contacting the Health Unit to complete the required steps and documentation. Through these processes the Health Unit makes every effort to avoid issuing suspension orders.

The health unit also works with family physicians to increase vaccine reporting and immunization uptake. Vaccination clinics are provided by the VPD Team in both Haldimand and Norfolk Counties. Following this process students who continue to have

incomplete immunization records will be suspended from attendance at school for 20 days, commencing February 7, 2024, by order of the Medical Officer of Health as per ISPA. After the 20 day suspension period, students whose records remain out-of-date may be suspended for another 20 day period at the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

2020-2022 School Years

During the 2020-2022 school years, school-based vaccine activities, including the suspension process were paused due to the on-going pandemic. The VPD has since developed a catch-up strategy to address the gaps that were unintendedly created. This strategy involves assessing the immunizations records of all school aged children from Grade 1-Grade 12 annually, offering school based catch up clinics in our area high schools, offering an increased number of Health Unit operated routine immunization clinics and a return of our school-based vaccine program for grade 7 students.

The projected long-term goal of these approaches are to decrease the number of active suspensions annually and increase vaccine coverage rates across school aged children. As an example, in the spring of 2023 the VPD team completed ISPA enforcement with the 2005 and 2015 birth cohorts. For the 2015 birth cohort, 580 letters were issued regarding suspension. When reassessing the same birth cohort this year, only 89 students will be subject to ISPA enforcement; an 85% reduction in active suspensions and a vaccine coverage rate between 91-93% for ISPA related diseases. In the subsequent years, the VPD team will continue its proactive approach by assessing the records for suspension cohorts in the year prior to enforcement being taken upon them. This again should lead to a decrease in the number of suspension orders issued by the Medical Officer of Health the following year.

Financial Services Comments:

Norfolk County

There are no direct financial implications within the report as presented.

The ISPA enforcement process is one of many programs offered by the Health Unit through the VPD team. The Board of Health 2024 Approved Budget includes \$831,500 for VPD programs, funded through the Ministry of Health's Mandatory Programs. Any levy costs for Health Unit programs are shared between Haldimand and Norfolk counties as per the arbitration agreement.

Haldimand County

Haldimand Finance staff have reviewed this report and agree with the information provided by Norfolk Financial Services

Interdepartmental Implications:

Haldimand County

The proactive approach for catch-up and the continued efforts put forth by the Health Unit staff help support Haldimand's guiding principle of supporting the health of County residents.

Consultation(s):

None

Strategic Plan Linkage:

This report aligns with the 2022-2026 Council Strategic Priority Empowering Norfolk - Putting the tools and resources in place to ensure our businesses' and residents' success.

Explanation:

HNHU focuses on seamless delivery of service in health promotion and disease prevention to the residents of Haldimand and Norfolk counties and local stakeholders. The execution and coordination of the Immunization of School Pupils Act results in increased vaccination rates for the elementary and high school populations of Haldimand and Norfolk. The Health Unit strives to build strong partnerships with external community partners and has been developing its relationship with the Public and Separate school boards for more than a decade. This relationship has led to a smooth ISPA suspension process with pupils suspended from school for the shortest amount of time possible.

Conclusion:

Ongoing immunization programs that ensure high vaccine coverage rates for ISPA mandated vaccines are needed to maintain low levels of vaccine preventable diseases.

When vaccine programs are successful and rates of vaccine preventable diseases are low, there is potential for people to question the need to continue such programs. This may lead to lower vaccine coverage rates for ISPA mandated vaccines and, inevitably a resurgence of vaccine preventable diseases in the community.

Enforcement of ISPA is an important means to ensure that ISPA mandated vaccine coverage rates remain high; and students, parents, and our community remain protected from vaccine preventable diseases.

Attachment(s) and References:

- Appendix A: Designated Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- HPPA (1990), *Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO, c H. 7*, retrieved from: <https://ontario.ca/laws/statue/90h07>
- ISPA (1990), *Immunization of School Pupils Act, RSO, c I. 1*, retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>
- MOHLTC (2015) *Immunization 2020, Modernizing Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Program*, Toronto, ON: Queens Printers for Ontario.
- MOHLTC (2018), *Immunization for Children in Schools and Licensed Child Care Settings Protocol*, 2018, Toronto, ON: Queens Printers for Ontario.
- MOHLTC (2018), *Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability*, Toronto, ON: Queens Printers for Ontario.
- PHO (2019), *Immunization Coverage Report for School Pupils in Ontario*, Toronto, ON: Queens Printers for Ontario.

Approval:

Approved By:
Sarah Page
General Manager
Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services

Reviewed By:
Syed Shah
Director, Public Health
Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services

Prepared By:
Eric Robertson
Program Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Haldimand-Norfolk Health and Social Services

Appendix A:

Designated Vaccine Preventable Disease's

Ontario's Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires that students attending primary and secondary school must have proof of immunization against the following designated vaccine preventable diseases to attend school:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Meningococcal Disease
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Varicella (Chicken pox)*

*born in 2010 or later

Retrieved from:

ISPA (1990), *Immunization of School Pupils Act, RSO, c I. 1*, retrieved from:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90i01>

**PLEASE ROUTE TO:
All Board of Health Members
All Members of Regional Health & Social Service Committees
All Senior Public Health Managers**

December 18, 2023



December 2023 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep ALPHA's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, ALPHA activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

**Leader to Leader - A Message from ALPHA's President -
December 2023**

leadership
motivation
dedication
drive
discipline
passion
excellence
heart

During this holiday season I wish to acknowledge the challenges of the 2023 year, and hope for all in local public health a time of enjoyment and restoration with loved ones.

As always, the past month has been eventful for local public health and for alPHa. Commendations to the alPHa staff, Board and membership for the success of our Winter Symposium, its workshops (*How to Use a Human-Rights Based Framework in the Workplace*, and on *Risk Communication in a Changing World*), and the Boards of Health Section and COMOH Section meetings. We very much appreciate the feedback provided by the attendants which was very positive overall but also instructive regarding improvements and ideas for future events. The Symposium included greetings from dignitaries including the Premier and the Minister of Health, as well as highly informative presentations on Strengthening Public Health, the experience of a health unit merger, the development of alPHa's Strategic Plan and its bylaw (to be in compliance with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act), and the development of Public Health Ontario's Strategic Plan. I do thank the presenters including our Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kieran Moore, and the President and CEO for Public Health Ontario Michael Sherar for helping to make our symposium a success. [Presentations](#) from these are posted on the alPHa website as we obtain them. I also cite the AMO/alPHa session on December 13 for Board of Health members on mergers as a valuable opportunity for learning.

I am happy to report that alPHa's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan was approved by our Board on December 12. Additional information will be available in the new year and I will be providing an update on its application at the alPHa Winter Symposium that is taking place on Friday, February 16, 2024. Thank you to the membership for your participation in its creation, including at the November 24 alPHa Symposium. I also wish to acknowledge the alPHa Board and staff, as well as Maria Sánchez-Keane, Principal, [Centre for Organizational Effectiveness](#), as consultant in its creation. The alPHa Board is fully committed to its successful implementation in the years to come.

The alPHa Board and Executive Committee are well aware of the importance of full engagement and dialogue between the province and local Boards of Health as we progress with the contents of the Strengthening Public Health initiative. This very much includes local developments regarding potential mergers. To this end, alPHa has [written](#) to the Chief Medical Officer of Health on the importance of such engagement.

alPHa will also be making a submission on behalf of the association to the province for its Pre-Budget Consultations. In this the alPHa Executive Committee will be drawing upon past submissions, the events that have occurred over the past year regarding provincial funding for local public health, and the input that we receive

from the field. As communicated recently by our Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, the alPHa Executive Committee will be happy to receive such input to loretta@alphaweb.org by December 31, 2023 and will make our submission early enough for the consideration of local public health leaders before the province's deadline of January 31, 2024. Thank you to the many who are helping to guide our key messages as we move forward with provincial engagement on the resourcing of local public health.

I very much look forward to other upcoming alPHa events, the February 14-16, 2024 Symposium, workshops, and Section Meetings (taking place virtually, and including a workshop on Climate Change) and the in-person conference and AGM June 5-7, 2024 in Toronto, with details coming soon on the February event. We very much appreciate the support of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their technical support that has enabled the success of our virtual events, and the excellence of the alPHa staff and the participating members of alPHa. We have had record numbers of attendants at these events and we strive to continue this success.

2023 has been a year of transition with the end of the WHO declaration of COVID-19 being a public health emergency in May. Despite this COVID has continued to cause a substantial number of institutional outbreaks, serious illness and deaths, drawing upon the resources of local public health and the health care system overall and requiring respiratory viral surge planning. Through the year much has been done to restore the full local public health mandate, despite the challenge of limited resources. Addressing other longer-term health threats (such as tobacco, vaping and nicotine control, as featured in a [letter](#) to the federal Minister of Health; and [alcohol](#), as noted in alPHa's letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health) has long been core to the mandate of local public health. Our local public health leaders and the overall workforce in public health have been heroic in this, and I am continuously inspired by their work. We will face many challenges in the future and I am confident we will manage these as they come. Thank you to one and all.

Dr. Charles Gardner
alPHa President

A holiday message from alPHa staff



We would like to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. Here's to a safe and fun holiday season, filled with warmth, happiness, and good health!

alPHa's office will close at the end of day on Friday, December 22nd. The office reopens on Tuesday, January 2nd.

**Please note our mailing address has changed to:
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7**

2024 Budget Consultations



Further to alPHa's e-mail to the membership on November 29, 2023, the Government of Ontario is seeking public input on the 2024 Budget via an online survey, an invitation for written submissions, and public hearings.

How to participate:

You can share your ideas in the following ways:

- Survey: The government’s online survey will close on January 31, 2024. [Take the survey.](#)
- Written Submissions: **alPHa will be providing a written submission and invites input from its members.** To contribute, please send an e-mail to loretta@alphaweb.org by December 31, 2023. We also encourage our members to provide submissions of their own to ensure local perspectives are considered. The government’s submissions portal is open until January 31, 2024. [Submissions to the government.](#)
- Mail your submission to:
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z1
- Attend an in-person consultation in your area: email MOFconsultations@ontario.ca for more information.
- Additional information from the government can be found here: [Further Information on 2024 Budget Consultations.](#)

To assist you as you write your letters to the provincial government regarding the 2024 Budget Consultations, alPHa has compiled a list of resources. Included in the list are submissions such as: the alPHa Summary on the 2023 Fall Economic Statement; the September 22, 2023 alPHa letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, regarding the Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement; the August 22, 2023 alPHa letter to the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones, regarding the Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement. You can view the list [here](#).

Strengthening Public Health Webinar: Focus on Voluntary Mergers of Local Public Health Agencies



Thank you to all of the alPHa members who participated in the *Strengthening Public Health Webinar: Focus on Voluntary Mergers of Local Public Health Agencies*

on December 13. It was hosted by AMO, in partnership with alPHa, and facilitated two-way dialogue with the Ministry of Health about the government's Strengthening Public Health strategy. The webinar also provided an update on progress and discussion of common questions raised by municipal partners to date.

alPHa would like to thank AMO for the opportunity to work together on this webinar and looks forward to continued dialogue and engagement with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

alPHa 2023 Fall Symposium Resources



Thank you to the more than 150 alPHa members who attended this year's Fall Symposium. We had a record number of you engaged in discussions and dialogue on key public health issues! Special thanks to Dr. Charles Gardner, President, for chairing the Fall Symposium and thank you to Carmen McGregor and Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang for chairing their respective Section meetings.

We would also like to thank Obadiah George from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Andy Morrisson from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event and technical support.

Lastly, and importantly, we would like to note and thank the alPHa staff for all of their work to make the Symposium, workshops, Section meetings, and Board meeting a success.

Presentations from this year's Fall Symposium are now available. Please note, you will need to log in to the members' side of the website to view the presentations.

Workshops:

1. [Human Rights-Based Approach Framework](#)

2. [Risk Communication in A Changing World](#)

Fall Symposium:

1. [aPHa Fall Symposium main slide deck](#)
2. [Reflections from Southwestern Public Health's Merger](#)
3. [Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 \(ONCA\) Update](#)
4. [Public Health Ontario Update](#)

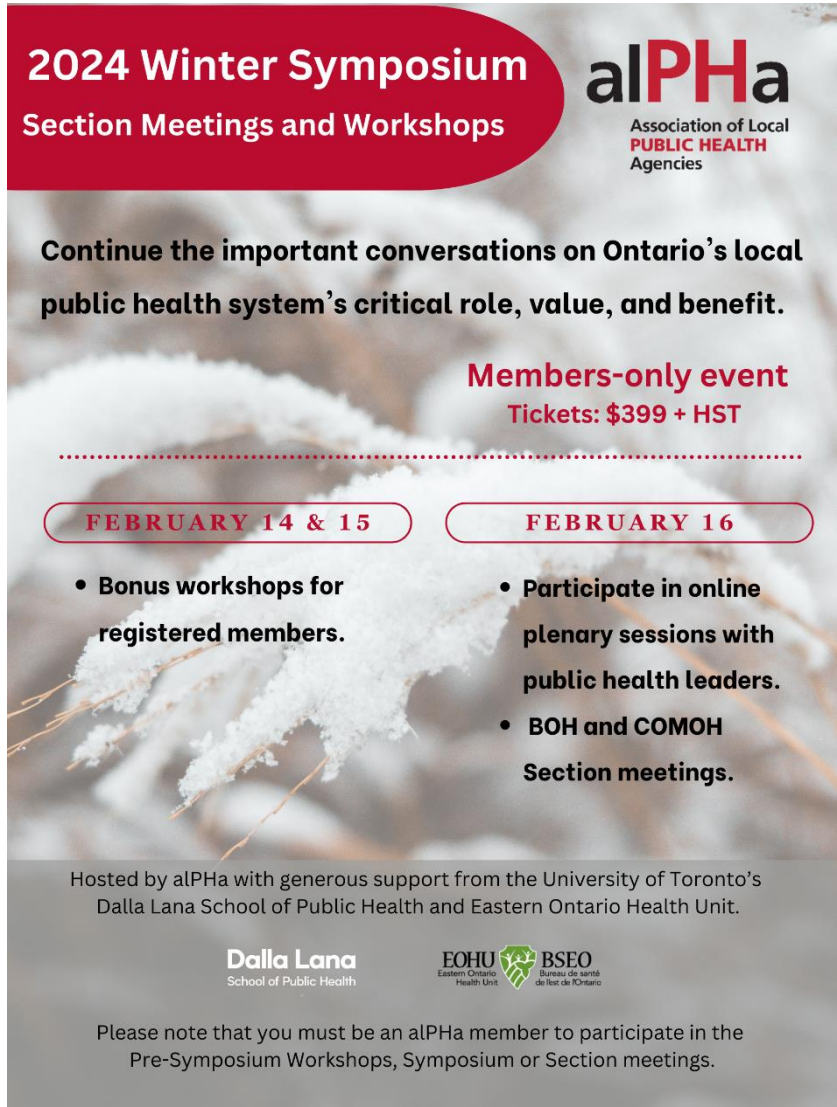
BOH Section Meeting:

1. [aPHa Legal Counsel Update for Boards of Health](#)
2. [Ontario Health Teams Update](#)
3. [Public Health and the Political Landscape](#)
4. [Association of Municipalities of Ontario \(AMO\) Update](#)

You can also view a compilation of the presentations [here](#).

The winner of the post-event survey gift card is Tammy DeGiovanni of Ottawa Public Health. Congratulations!

Hold the dates for the 2024 Winter Symposium!



2024 Winter Symposium
Section Meetings and Workshops

alPHa
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

Continue the important conversations on Ontario's local public health system's critical role, value, and benefit.

Members-only event
Tickets: \$399 + HST

FEBRUARY 14 & 15

- Bonus workshops for registered members.

FEBRUARY 16

- Participate in online plenary sessions with public health leaders.
- BOH and COMOH Section meetings.

Hosted by alPHa with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

EOHU **BSEO**
Eastern Ontario Health Unit Bureau de santé de l'est de l'Ontario

Please note that you must be an alPHa member to participate in the Pre-Symposium Workshops, Symposium or Section meetings.

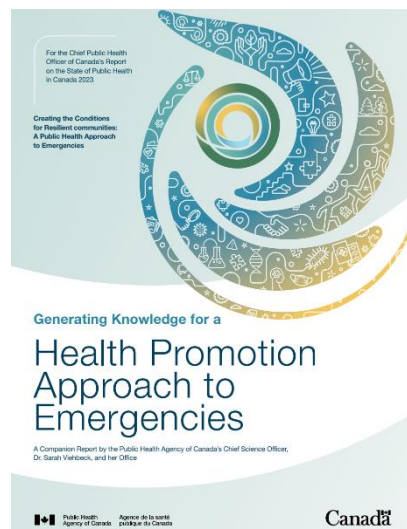
The 2024 Winter Symposium is fast approaching! Don't forget to hold the dates on February 14-16, 2024 for this **online** event. We already have an exciting and jam-packed line up in the works, and you won't want to miss out. More information will be available early in the new year. In the meantime, you can view the event flyer [here](#).

EAs/AAs: Save the date for the 2024 EA/AA Workshop!



On the afternoon of Friday, February 14, 2024, aPHa will be holding a workshop for Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants for the 34 member public health units. Please stay tuned for further information.

Companion resource to the 2023 Chief Public Health Officer's report



On November 30, the Chief Science Officer, for the Public Health Agency of Canada, Dr. Sarah Viehbeck, released [*Generating Knowledge for a Health Promotion Approach to Emergencies*](#), which is a companion to the Chief Public

Health Officer's [*Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2023: Creating the Conditions for Resilient Communities: A Public Health Approach to Emergencies.*](#)

The document identifies knowledge gaps and research needs to bridge the science-to-policy divide, catalyze collaborative scientific activity, and provides the evidence base to support the application of a health promotion approach to emergencies in Canada.

Public Health Matters: A Business Case for Local Public Health videos now available in English and French

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

A BUSINESS CASE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH CHAMPIONS HEALTH FOR ALL

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE WELL-BEING, PREVENT DISEASE AND INJURY, AND PROTECT POPULATION HEALTH.

Public Health Matters
aIPHa
Association of Public Health Officers of Ontario
www.alpha.org

UNE QUESTION DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

UNE ANALYSE DE LA RENTABILITÉ DE LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

LA SANTÉ PUBLIQUE SOUTIENT LA SANTÉ POUR TOUS

LES AGENCES DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE LOCALES OFFRENT DES PROGRAMMES ET DES SERVICES QUI FAVORISENT LE BIEN-ÊTRE, LA PRÉVENTION DES MALADIES ET DES BLESSURES ET QUI PROTÈGENT LA SANTÉ DE LA POPULATION.

Public Health Matters
aIPHa
Association of Public Health Officers of Ontario
www.alpha.org

The latest infographic, *Public Health Matters: A Business Case for Local Public Health*, now has accompanying videos available in [English](#) and [French](#). The latest infographic and videos present a business case for public health and covers topics such as reduced hospitalizations, safe communities, and healthy children. To read the French infographic, click [here](#). The English infographic is available [here](#).

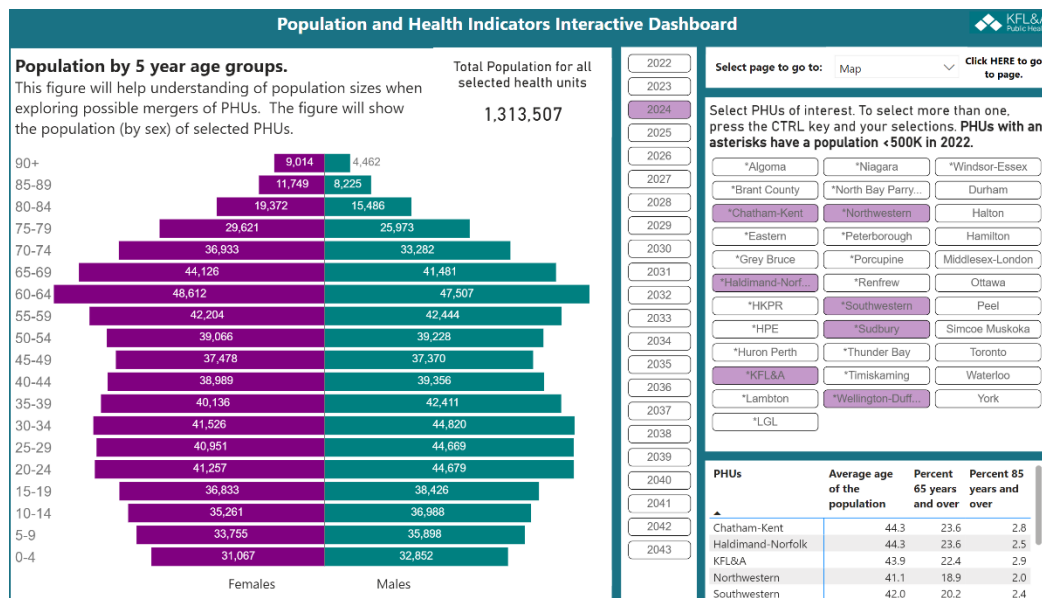
aIPHa would also like to thank Eastern Ontario Health Unit for translating the infographic.

ONCA update



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Boards of Health Section meeting. At the meeting, there was a question regarding the applicability of Ontario’s [Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 \(ONCA\)](#) for Boards of Health and some confusion as a result of the response. James LeNoury, alPHa’s legal counsel, apologizes for any misunderstanding and as per his letter posted in [alPHa’s Boards of Health Resource Webpage](#), dated May 11, 2023, ONCA does not apply to Boards of Health.

Population and Health Indicators Interactive Dashboard



KFL&A would like to share with members the population dashboard they created to facilitate exploratory discussions regarding voluntary mergers between Boards of Health. To view the dashboard, click [here](#).

Affiliates update

Affiliates

Association of Local Public
Health Agencies



Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry

The Ontario Dental Association (ODA), Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA), and Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) have written a paper titled [*Considerations for Aligning Federal and Provincial Dental Programs to Improve Oral Health*](#). The document offers considerations for the Ontario Ministry of Health and provincial oral health stakeholders for aligning federal and provincial dental programs. In addition, it provides context and outlines recommendations across eight key areas.



Association of Public Health Epidemiologists of Ontario

Emma Tucker is the 2023 recipient of the [Terry Delmore Award of Excellence](#), which is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions in the advancement and/or promotion of the discipline and professional practice of public health epidemiology in Ontario.

The Award selection committee recognized Emma’s dedication to mentorship; her roles with alPHa and APHEO; and her commitments to advocacy and policy, especially in her recent work advocating for APHEO to be included at provincial decision-making tables that impact the work that public health epidemiologists are doing. Emma’s nominations for the award also highlighted that her engagement and advocacy have raised the profile of APHEO at other provincial organizations, which helps the organization as a whole better succeed in furthering the professional practice of public health epidemiology in Ontario.

Congratulations, Emma!

AMO Health Transformation Task Force



AMO’s Health Transformation Task Force (the Terms of Reference can be found [here](#)) met on Friday, November 17. At the meeting, Strengthening Public Health

and voluntary mergers were discussed, along with presentations on Health Human Resource issues, by several associations, including one by alPHA's Executive Director, Loretta Ryan.

BrokerLink Insurance



In partnership with alPHA, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer exclusive discounts on personal home and auto insurance to members. The holiday season has arrived. It's time to ensure that you have everything covered in the event something unexpected happens. Read our tips on how to celebrate the holiday season safely [here](#).

TOPHC 2024



[Registration for TOPHC 2024 has launched!](#) Here's what you can expect:

- In-person workshops: March 26, 2024 - (at Beanfield Centre, Toronto); Interactive workshops, with opportunities for in-person networking. The cost to attend in-person workshops is \$125.
- Virtual session: April 3, 2024 - An exciting program with a variety of interactive presentations that will inspire ideas and spark conversations with

colleagues. The cost to attend the virtual convention is \$250, which includes access to the 2024 Virtual Library for six months following the event. Discounts for multiple registrations are available.

There are six confirmed workshops on a variety of topics, including: advancing health equity, avoiding burnout, wildfire season, chronic disease prevention, enteric outbreaks, and rapid review basics. Here is the [program-at-a-glance](#).

For more info, visit the TOPHC website: tophc.ca

Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on alPha's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to orientation materials, best practices, by-laws, resolutions, and other resources. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the alPha website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health](#) (Revised Feb. 2023)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018, \(PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023\)](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview](#) (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)

- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health](#) (Video, June 8, 2021)
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- [NCCHPP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System](#) (2021)
- [The Municipal Role of Public Health](#)(2022 U of T Report)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

BOH Governance training course
 Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

Social Determinants of Health training course
 Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Speakers are Monika Turner and Loretta Ryan.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

Additionally, thank you to all the public health agencies who have shown interest in our BOH courses. aPHa staff are currently coordinating the bookings and are pleased to see the uptake.

aPHa Correspondence



Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, aPHa'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. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [aPHa Letter - Provincial Alcohol Strategy](#)
- [aPHa Letter - BOH Leadership & Mergers](#)
- [aPHa Letter - Nicotine Product Regulation](#)

•

Public Health Ontario

IPAC

- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Measures Based on Respiratory Virus Transmission Risk in Health Care Settings](#)
- [IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

Antimicrobial Stewardship

- [Opportunities in Public Health to Improve Antibiotic Use in Ontario](#)
- [Public Health can Help Reduce Antibiotic Prescribing Variability and Support Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

Diabetes

- [Participant Facilitators and Barriers to Diabetes Prevention and Treatment Programs and Self- Management Strategies](#)
- [Implementation Factors for Virtual Delivery of Type 2 Diabetes Prevention](#)

Additional Resources – New

- [Effectiveness of Engineering Interventions on Road Safety](#)
- [Universal Prenatal Syphilis Screening and Congenital Syphilis](#)
- [Dental Burs – Cleaning and Sterilization](#)
- [Legionellosis in Ontario](#)
- [Environmental and Occupational Health Considerations for Supervised Smoking Facilities](#)

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Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

Dalla Lana

School of Public Health

- [Dalla Lana Fellowship in Journalism and Health Impact](#) (Dec. 20)
 - [Health Inc. 3.3: How the baby food industry influences infant and young child feeding](#) (Jan. 25)
-

RRFSS has been providing local data to health units for over 20 years!



RRFSS provides health units with data to help to monitor local public health trends, plan local public health programs and services and provide evidence for the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and Protocols requirements that public health units are mandated to report. Other proven benefits of RRFSS include:

- Timely data—i.e., Data is collected and made available 3 times per year.
- Fills data gaps—i.e., RRFSS provides much-needed local data to understand local health inequities that are not available from the CCHS.
- Customizable data—i.e., PHUs have complete control over survey content, with the ability to choose (or even develop) locally-relevant questions.
- Collaboration—i.e., PHUs share expertise and reduce their survey costs by sharing the administrative costs associated with CATI setup, data collection and data file preparation by ISR.
- Partnership with ISR—i.e., the largest university-based survey research centre in Canada with over 50 years of excellence in conducting applied and academic social research.

For more information about joining the longest running **local** risk factor surveillance system in the world, contact Lynne Russell, RRFSS Coordinator lynnerrussell@rrfss.ca

PLEASE ROUTE TO:

All Board of Health Members

All Members of Regional Health & Social Service Committees

All Senior Public Health Managers

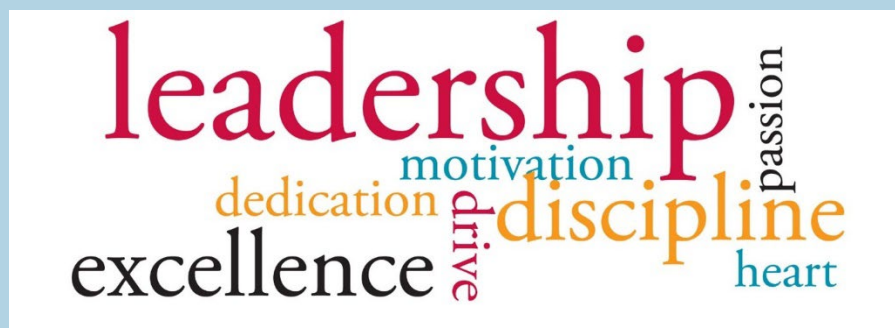
January 18, 2024



January 2024 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep alPHa's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPHa activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

Leader to Leader - A Message from alPHa's President - January 2024



Happy New Year to all in local public health in Ontario. I hope everyone has had the opportunity for a happy, healthy and rejuvenating time with friends and family during the holiday season. Certainly, such restoration has been well-earned and critically important to our own well-being as we continue the mandate of keeping the people of Ontario healthy.

The 2024 year is upon us, and with it the promise of new challenges and opportunities. As I indicated in the December issue of the *Information Break*, alPHa now has a new 2024-2027 Strategic Plan to guide our work; I will be providing an update on this at the February 14-16, 2024 Symposium (to be held virtually). The Symposium features a number of topics and speakers that are key to the future of local public health. The draft Winter Symposium Program and the BOH Section Agenda can be found [here](#). The events that week include a climate change workshop titled, *Building Climate Resilient Health Systems*, and second workshop called *Thriving in Change: Building Resilience in Turbulent Times*, reflecting what we have witnessed in recent years and the work of local public health to address the challenges to come. alPHa is also providing its support for [The Ontario Public Health Convention \(TOPHC\)](#) taking place virtually (April 3) and in-person (March 26); I look forward to attending and assisting as alPHa President, and I thank and acknowledge the alPHa Board, membership and staff in all that we have done and do.

After so much time working remotely, I also look forward to engaging with many of you in-person at the alPHa conference June 5-7 in Toronto. The opportunity to meet in person and to share together will be very enjoyable, providing much additional benefit to our physical and mental well-being. alPHa will share more information about this exciting event at the Winter Symposium.

Our engagement with the province as they proceed with the Strengthening Public Health initiative (revising the Ontario Public Health Standards, voluntary mergers, and determining the long-term funding for local public health) continues as a top priority for alPHa, throughout 2024 and beyond.

An immediate task for alPHa is a submission for the provincial pre-budget consultation, making the case for public health as a critically important investment. We continue building on our past work using our survey data on the resilience of local public health and the return on our work (as communicated in our [infographic](#) and [submission](#)). To this end, it is important our submission also aligns with the most current of circumstances, as well as with input from the alPHa membership. With this in mind. I thank the many who provided such input into our letter, and I would like to thank Steven Rebellato, Affiliate Representative on the alPHa Board of Directors, for his deputation, made on behalf of alPHa on January 17th, to the Minister of Finance. Please note, a copy of the deputation is appended to the linked pre-budget submission (above).

With the new year comes the question of what will come and the promise of opportunity. I am always inspired by the excellence of our work in local public health, and I look forward to doing what I can as President to help achieve all that we can over the 2024 year.

Dr. Charles Gardner
alPHa President

Happy New Year from the alPHa Staff!



We would like to wish you all a very happy new year full of health, joy, and happiness!

**Please note our mailing address has changed to:
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7**

Please update your records accordingly for correspondence, payments, and other remittances. Our telephone number and e-mail addresses remain the same.

Additionally, if your health unit has not yet moved to credit card or electronic fund transfers (EFTs) for payment, alPHa requests that you do so.

For further information, please contact info@alphaweb.org.

2024 Budget Consultations



alPHa has sent a submission, which focused on the financial requirements for a stable, locally based public health system. This includes budget pressures facing public health units, and funding for effectively meeting the Ontario Public Health Standards and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.

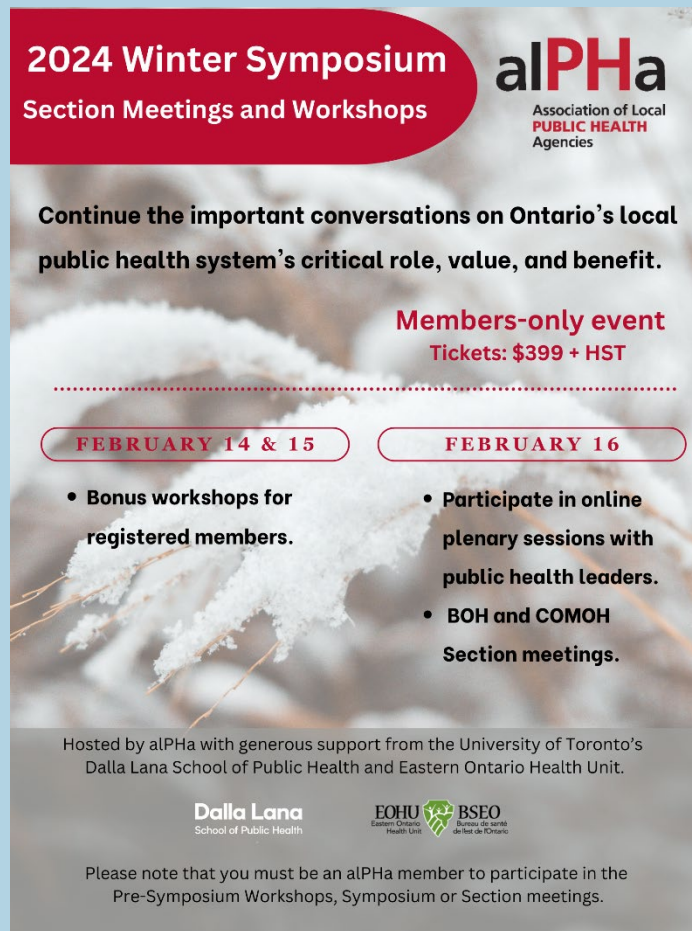
Steven Rebellato, Affiliate Representative on the alPHa Board of Directors, presented at the 2024 Pre-Budget Deputation to the Minister of Finance on Wednesday, January 17th. He spoke about the financial requirements for a stable, locally based public health system, noting the restoration the \$47-million in provincial annual based funding, the Ontario Public Health Standards review, and the Strengthening Public Health Initiative.

You can read the submission and deputation [here](#). Please note, these are linked as one document.

alPHa members are encouraged to participate and share their ideas with the government in the following ways:

- Survey: The government's online survey will close on January 31, 2024. [Take the survey.](#)
- Written Submissions: We encourage our members to provide submissions of their own to ensure local perspectives are considered. The government's submissions portal is open until January 31, 2024. [Submissions to the government.](#)
- Mail your submission to:
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z1
- Attend an in-person consultation in your area: email MOFconsultations@ontario.ca for more information.
- Additional information from the government can be found here: [Further Information on 2024 Budget Consultations.](#)

Registration is now open for the 2024 alPHA Winter Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops!



2024 Winter Symposium
Section Meetings and Workshops

alPHA
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

Continue the important conversations on Ontario's local public health system's critical role, value, and benefit.

Members-only event
Tickets: \$399 + HST

FEBRUARY 14 & 15


- Bonus workshops for registered members.

FEBRUARY 16

- Participate in online plenary sessions with public health leaders.
- BOH and COMOH Section meetings.

Hosted by alPHA with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

EOHU  **BSEO**
Eastern Ontario Health Unit Bureau de santé de l'est de l'Ontario

Please note that you must be an alPHA member to participate in the Pre-Symposium Workshops, Symposium or Section meetings.

Registration is now open for the online [2024 Winter Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops](#) that are taking place February 14th-16th! This event will discuss a variety of issues of key importance to public health leaders and you won't want to miss out.

On Friday, February 16th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., there is an exciting lineup of Symposium and Boards of Health Section meeting topics, with a focus on Strengthening Public Health (including revising the Ontario Public Health Standards, voluntary mergers, and long-term funding for local public health) and key speakers: Dr. Charles Gardner, President, alPHA; Kelly Pender, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Frontenac; Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Medical Officer of Health and CEO, KFL&A and Wess Garrod, Chair, Board of Health, KFL&A; Franger Jimenez; John Allen, Partner, Allen & Malek LLP and Dr. Robert Kyle, Chair, alPHA – ONCA Compliance Working Group; Michael Sherar, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario; Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health (invited); and Sabine Matheson, Principal, StrategyCorp.

In conjunction with the Symposium and Section meetings, we are holding two workshops. The first one, *Building Climate Resilient Health Systems*, is on Wednesday, February 14th, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The workshop objectives are: to assist ALPHA members in recognizing the importance of climate change to local public health, its programming, and its impact and risk to Ontario and need for ongoing planning; to achieve a shared understanding of the roles of local public health regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation; to share perspectives regarding the status of challenges from, action on and response to climate change among local public health agencies; and to assist ALPHA members in developing tools needed to manage heat-related adaptation and 2024 preparation.

On the afternoon of Thursday, February 15th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., we will hold the second workshop: *Thriving in Change: Building Resilience in Turbulent Times* with Tim Arnold from [Leaders For Leaders](#). This workshop is designed to help you navigate the tricky and turbulent moments you face in the workplace. The interactive session integrates change management, emotional intelligence, and resilience, providing you with a holistic toolkit to thrive amidst unprecedented change, tight timelines, and high-stress work environments.

These workshops are being offered at no additional cost to Symposium registrants and you will be registered automatically when you sign up for the Winter Symposium. Separate registrations are not available for individual events.

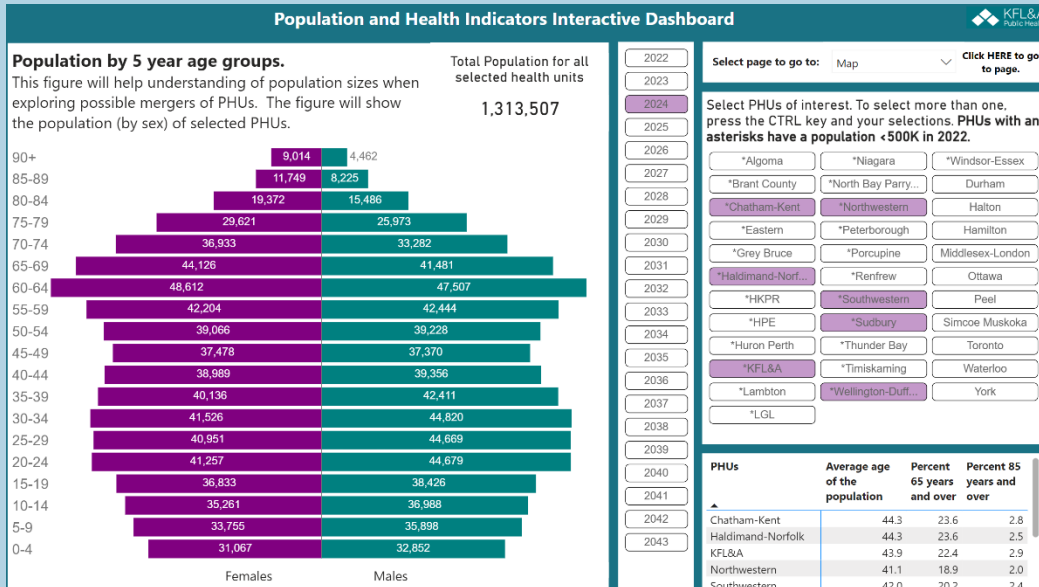
The following documents can be accessed by clicking on the links below:

- [Event flyer](#)
- [Symposium draft program](#)
- [BOH Section Meeting draft agenda](#)
- [Building Climate Resilient Health Systems workshop draft agenda](#)
- [Thriving in Change: Building Resilience in Turbulent Times workshop](#)

Registration is for ALPHA members only, (please note, you do not need to create an account on the ALPHA website in order to register for the event) and the cost is \$399+HST (and is inclusive of the Symposium, Workshops, and Section Meeting and you only need to register once to attend all of the events). The closing date to register is Wednesday, February 7, 2024. Please note, the best way to pay for your registration is via credit card or Electronic Fund Transfer.

ALPHA would like to thank the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event support!

Population and Health Indicators Interactive Dashboard



KFL&A would like to share with members the population dashboard they created to facilitate exploratory discussions regarding voluntary mergers between Boards of Health. To view the dashboard, click [here](#). **Please note, this will be featured as part of a session at the Winter Symposium.**

Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on aPHa's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, resolutions, and other resources. **In particular, aPHa is seeking**

resources to share regarding the province's Strengthening Public Health Initiative, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the alPHa website include:

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- [The Municipal Role of Public Health\(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)

Calling all Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants!



alPHa
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

2024
Executive Assistant/
Administrative Assistant
Virtual Workshop

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
1:00pm – 3:00pm EST

alPHa's Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant **Virtual** Workshop is a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to connect with one another from across the province, sharing ideas and enhancing their skills.

Event Focus:

- Successfully navigating challenging and turbulent times.
- Inspiration and tools for dealing with unprecedented change, tight timelines, challenging individuals, and high-stress work environments.

Registration is \$149 +HST

Please note that you must be an Executive Assistant or an Administrative Assistant at a health unit to attend.

alPHa is excited to announce that registration has opened for the [Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Workshop](#)! This virtual event will be held on Wednesday, February 14th from 1 p.m.-3 p.m., and is an opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Ontario, share ideas, and enhance your skills. The cost is \$149+HST and the final day to register is Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.

The workshop, called *Thriving in Change: Building Resilience in Turbulent Times*, will be put on by Tim Arnold from [Leaders For Leaders](#) and will "help you navigate the tricky and turbulent moments you face in the workplace. This interactive session seamlessly integrates change management, emotional intelligence, and resilience, providing you with a holistic toolkit to thrive amidst unprecedented change, tight timelines, and high-stress work environments."

To learn more about this event, you can view the flyer [here](#).

Please note, you do not need to create an account on the alPHa website in order to register for the workshop. However you must be an Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant to a medical officer of health/board of health at a health unit to participate.

alPHa would also like to thank Melissa Ziebarth from Renfrew County District Health Unit and Kathy Proksch from Region of Waterloo, Public Health for being part of the Workshop Planning Committee and for their assistance with planning this event.

We hope to see you online February 14th!

Hold the date for the 2024 alPHa Conference and AGM!



The alPHa Conference and AGM will be held in-person June 5-7, 2024 in Toronto. Further details, including accommodation information, will be shared at the alPHa Winter Symposium.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) letter and Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference



On Monday, January 15, AMO sent a letter to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, addressing Health Human Resources issues. They address burnout and fatigue leading to staff leaving the health system (or finding more flexible work elsewhere). They also address how public health, if adequately staffed, can ease the pressure on the acute and primary care system. If you want to read more, click [here](#).

Are you an alPHA member attending the ROMA Conference that is taking place January 21-23 and/or attending meetings or making a deputation at this event? Don't forget alPHA has numerous resources available to you, including the recent [pre-budget submission](#).

Ontario Public Health Directory Update



alPHA is in the process of updating the [Ontario Public Health Directory and After-Hours Emergency list](#). If you have any updates, please review both documents, highlight the changes, and send it to communications@alphaweb.org by Friday, February 2, 2024.

How to Stay Healthy in the Winter Infographic

alPHA Workplace Health & Wellness



Want to improve your physical and mental health during the winter months? Our [latest infographic](#) can help! Check it out for tips on how to stay healthy, improve your mental health, and ensure you prevent seasonal respiratory illnesses.

Don't forget to head to alPHA's website to [read more of our infographics](#) to help you improve your health and wellness.

Affiliates Update

Affiliates

Association of Local Public
Health Agencies



Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
Diététistes en santé publique de l'Ontario

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)

ODPH authored a [communication](#) to members of the National Finance Committee of the Senate of Canada urging their support of bill S-233, National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act. Progress on bill S-233 can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to ODPH Peer Recognition Awards winners, Marcia Dawes, Region of Peel Public Health, and Lauren Kennedy, Peterborough Public Health, who were honoured for their contributions to public health dietetics.

TOPHC 2024



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There are six confirmed workshops on a variety of topics, including: advancing health equity, avoiding burnout, wildfire season, chronic disease prevention, enteric outbreaks, and rapid review basics. Here is the [program-at-a-glance](#).

For more info, visit the TOPHC website: tophc.ca

RRFSS - Use it or lose it!



One of the benefits of RRFSS is that the survey runs continuously and PHUs can join annually or three times during the year (January, May and September). To date, 29 Ontario health units have used RRFSS at some point over the years to help fill their data gaps.

This flexibility also means it gives PHUs the ability to skip months or years of RRFSS data collection and currently RRFSS membership is at its all time low. This is in part due to the pandemic; PHUs have had to shift priorities away from risk factor surveillance to deal with competing priorities and financial constraints. If RRFSS membership does not increase, the sustainability of the surveillance system is in jeopardy. Therefore, if your PHU is considering joining RRFSS, we urge you to do it sooner rather than later.

There are many proven benefits to joining RRFSS and a July 2023 survey of RRFSS-participating health units highlighted that full control over survey content and specifications and the timely delivery of data as benefits of RRFSS. Additional benefits include:

- Fast response to emerging issues
 - e.g., In the summer of 2020, RRFSS quickly developed 12 new COVID-19-related modules that were available to health units on the new RRFSS online survey.
- Timely data
 - Data is delivered three times per year, about two months following the end of a four-month data collection cycle.
- Fills data gaps
 - RRFSS provides much-needed local data to understand local health inequities that are not available from the CCHS.
- Customizable data

- PHUs have complete control over survey content, with the ability to choose or develop locally-relevant questions (current questions can be found [here](#)).
- Collaboration
 - PHUs share expertise and reduce their survey costs by sharing the administrative costs associated with CATI setup, data collection and datafile preparation by ISR.
- Supports local economy
 - ISR is a non-profit academic research centre that employs only local Ontario resident interviewers with no outsourcing or automated recordings.

For more information about joining the longest running **local** risk factor surveillance system in the world, contact Lynne Russell, RRFSS Coordinator: lynnerrussell@rrfss.ca.

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

BOH Governance training course
 Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

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Speakers are Monika Turner and Loretta Ryan.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

Additionally, thank you to all the public health agencies who have shown interest in our BOH courses. alPHa staff are currently coordinating the bookings and are pleased to see the uptake.

BrokerLink Insurance



In partnership with alPHa, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer preferred home and auto insurance rates for members. An annual insurance review is a great opportunity to consider any major life events or changes made in the last year that may require adjustments to your insurance coverage. Check out BrokerLink's reasons to do an Annual Insurance Review on your policies prior to their renewal date, and learn about the 2024 Grand Group Giveaway [here](#).

alPHa Correspondence



Through policy analysis, 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. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [alPHa Letter - 2023 Ontario Budget](#)
- [AMO Letter - Health Human Resources](#)

Public Health Ontario



Updated Respiratory Virus Outbreaks Considerations for Public Health Planning

This [updated resource](#) outlines key considerations for public health units to support facilities in their jurisdiction to prepare for and respond to respiratory virus outbreaks and the mix of viruses that may circulate during a typical respiratory virus season. Topics covered include: immunization, monitoring, testing, anti-viral use, cohorting, staffing, outbreak declaration and communications.

Hand Hygiene

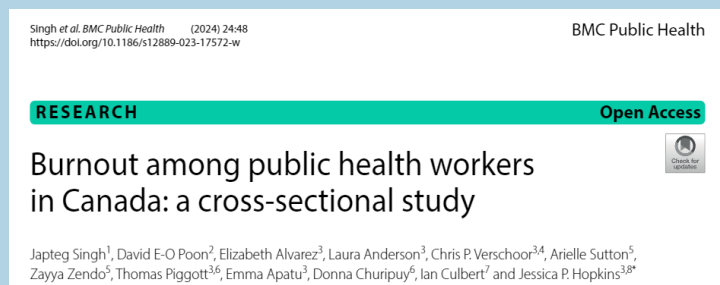
PHO's has released a suite of seven new hand hygiene resources to support education and training, hand hygiene product placement and skin care assessment, as part of a health care setting's overall hand hygiene program. They include:

- [Hand Hygiene Product Placement](#)
- [Maintenance of Hand Hygiene Products and Equipment Checklist](#)
- [Hand Hygiene Product Placement Checklist Patient, Resident, or Client and Hallway Area](#)
- [Effect of Cleaning and Sterilization Processes on the Cutting Efficiency of Dental Burs](#)
- [How to Protect Your Skin: A Self-Assessment Checklist](#)
- [Caring For Your Hands](#)
- [Four Moments of Hand Hygiene](#)
- [FAQ: Glove Use and Hand Hygiene](#)

Additional Resources

- [Canadian Health Equity Related Glossaries](#)
- [Smoke-Free Series: Post-Consumer Waste of Tobacco and Vaping Products](#)
- [Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae in Ontario: 2022 Annual Summary](#)
- [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)

Burnout among public health workers in Canada: A cross-sectional study



A new study led out of Public Health Ontario and, published in BMC Public Health, finds 79 per cent of public health workers in Canada meet criteria for burnout and 49 per cent of participants reported harassment because of their work during the pandemic. Read more [here](#).

Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

Dalla Lana

School of Public Health

- [CQ Seminar - Navigating tensions in paradigm bridging: Methodological lessons learned in Inuit Nunangat](#) (Jan. 19)
 - [CanPath Trainee Research Webinar: The Built Environment, Metabolites, and Cancer Risk](#) (Jan. 22)
 - [Vaccine Access, Equity and the Importance of Communication](#) (Jan. 22)
 - [Health Inc. 3.3: How the baby food industry influences infant and young child feeding](#) (Jan. 25)
 - [Stage International Speaker Seminar Series \(ISSS\) with Michael Wu](#) (Feb. 2)
-