



City of Hamilton
BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA

Meeting #: 25-002
Date: July 28, 2025
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Matt Gauthier, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 6437

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 July 7, 2025

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Keithan Vigna, Kyle Cheung, Ayaan Ahmed, Kartik Seth, and Ali Jawaid, Healthcare Hacks (McMaster University), respecting their 2025 Healthcare Hacks proposal aimed at improving healthcare accessibility

6.2 Delegations respecting the Hamilton 350 Proposal for Emergency Heat Relief, from the following individuals:

a. Miriam Sager, Hamilton 350

b. Don McLean

- c. Joanna Sargent, Hamilton 350
- d. Dr. James Quinn, Hamilton 350

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 BOH25014

Public Health Services 2024 Annual Performance & Accountability Report (City Wide)

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 Amendments to the Outstanding Business List

a. Items Requiring a New Due Date:

a. Public Health Impacts of Black Soot Residue in the Lower City

Original Due Date: Q2 2025

Proposed Due Date: September 8, 2025

b. Items Considered Complete and Needing to be Removed:

a. Feasibility of Implementing Wastewater Surveillance

Added: January 13, 2025

Addressed as Item 9.3 on July 7, 2025 Board of Health Agenda

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocols at Binbrook Conservation Area

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

12. BY-LAWS

12.1 001

To Confirm Proceedings of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Unit

13. ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public can contact the Clerk's Office to acquire the documents considered at this meeting, in an alternate format.



BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES BOH 25-001

9:30 a.m.

Monday, July 7, 2025

Council Chambers (Hybrid)

71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Councillors T. Hwang, C. Cassar, C. Kroetsch, N. Nann (Virtual),
M. Tadeson and A. Wilson
S. Adjekum, A. Cheung (Virtual), D. Danko (Virtual),
K. Johnson (Virtual), A. Joseph, and C. Kirkby

1. CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Trennum called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(Hwang/Kroetsch)

That the agenda for the July 7, 2025, Board of Health, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no Ceremonial Activities.

5. BOARD OF HEALTH ORIENTATION

5.1 BOH25018

Board of Health By-laws, Policies and Orientation (City Wide)

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, introduced Karima Kanani, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP, who addressed Committee respecting Report BOH25018, Board of Health By-laws, Policies and Orientation (City Wide), with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

(Nann/Kroetsch)

That Report BOH25018, dated July 7, 2025, respecting Board of Health By-laws, Policies and Orientation, and the accompanying presentation, be received and the following recommendations be approved:

- (a) That the Board of Health Procedural By-law, attached as Appendix “A” to Report BOH25018, BE APPROVED;
- (b) That the Board of Health Delegation By-law, attached as Appendix “B” to Report BOH25018, BE APPROVED;
- (c) That the Board of Health Remuneration Policy, attached as Appendix “C” to Report BOH25018, BE APPROVED;
- (d) That the Board of Health Travel Expenses Policy, attached as Appendix “D” to Report BOH25018, BE APPROVED; and,
- (e) That staff BE DIRECTED to conduct a governance review at the mid-point of each term of the Board of Health, with the first review conducted in Q4, 2028.

(Tadeson/Kroetsch)

That the Board of Health Remuneration Policy, attached as Appendix “C” to Report BOH25018, be **amended**, by striking “With the exception of the Chair”, to read as follows:

~~**With the exception of the Chair,**~~ Council Members of the Board of Health shall not receive remuneration for attendance of Board of Health meetings in keeping with the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

Result: AMENDMENT, CARRIED by a vote of 9 to 3, as follows:

NO	- Adjekum, Sarah	Citizen Member
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12 Councillor
YES	- Cheung, Andrew	Citizen Member
NO	- Danko, Dawn	Educational Representative
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4 Councillor
YES	- Johnson, Kassia	Citizen Member
NO	- Joseph, Ameil	Citizen Member
YES	- Kirkby, Chelsea	Citizen Member
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2 Councillor
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3 Councillor
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11 Councillor
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13 Councillor

(Hwang/Joseph)

That Report BOH25018, dated July 7, 2025, respecting Board of Health By-laws, Policies and Orientation, **be amended** by adding recommendation (f), as follows:

- (f) *That the Board of Health undertake its first self-evaluation process in the Spring of 2026 and reflect on its new function as a governing body.***

Result: AMENDMENT, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

YES	- Adjekum, Sarah	Citizen Member
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12 Councillor
YES	- Cheung, Andrew	Citizen Member
YES	- Danko, Dawn	Educational Representative
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4 Councillor
YES	- Johnson, Kassia	Citizen Member
YES	- Joseph, Ameil	Citizen Member
YES	- Kirkby, Chelsea	Citizen Member
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2 Councillor
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3 Councillor
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11 Councillor
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13 Councillor

Result: MAIN MOTION, As Amended, CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

YES	- Adjekum, Sarah	Citizen Member
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12 Councillor
YES	- Cheung, Andrew	Citizen Member
YES	- Danko, Dawn	Educational Representative
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4 Councillor
YES	- Johnson, Kassia	Citizen Member
YES	- Joseph, Ameil	Citizen Member
YES	- Kirkby, Chelsea	Citizen Member
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2 Councillor
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3 Councillor
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11 Councillor
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13 Councillor

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

(i) Appointment of Chair

Councillors Tadeson and Cassar nominated Councillor Kroetsch to be appointed Chair of the Board of Health for 2025-2026. There were no further nominations.

(Hwang/Cassar)

- (a) That the Nominations for the position of Chair for the Board of Health be closed; and
- (b) That Councillor Kroetsch be appointed Chair of the Board of Health for the 2022-2026 term of Council.

CARRIED

(ii) Appointment of Vice-Chair

Councillor Tadeson and Member Adjekum nominated Member Joseph to be appointed Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for 2025-2026. There were no further nominations.

(Hwang/Cassar)

- (a) That the Nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the Board of Health be closed; and
- (b) That Member Joseph be appointed Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for the 2022-2026 term of Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Kroetsch assumed the Chair.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no Previous Meeting Minutes for Approval.

8. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

9. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9.1 BOH25017

2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule (City Wide)

(a) (Nann/Danko)

That Report BOH25017, dated July 7, 2025, respecting the 2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule (City Wide), be received.

CARRIED

(b) (Danko/Nann)

That the Board of Health 2025 meeting schedule be approved as follows:

- (i) Monday, July 28, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
- (ii) Monday, September 8, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

- (iii) Monday, October 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
- (iv) Monday, November 10, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.
- (v) Monday, December 1, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

YES	- Adjekum, Sarah	Citizen Member
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12 Councillor
YES	- Cheung, Andrew	Citizen Member
YES	- Danko, Dawn	Educational Representative
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4 Councillor
YES	- Johnson, Kassia	Citizen Member
YES	- Joseph, Ameil	Citizen Member
YES	- Kirkby, Chelsea	Citizen Member
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2 Councillor
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3 Councillor
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11 Councillor
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13 Councillor

9.2 BOH25011

Embedding Health Equity Methods and Analysis in Hamilton Public Health Reporting (City Wide)

(Hwang/Cassar)

That Report BOH25011, dated July 7, 2025, respecting Embedding Health Equity Methods and Analysis in Hamilton Public Health Reporting (City Wide), be received.

CARRIED

9.3 BOH25013

Feasibility of Implementing Wastewater Surveillance (City Wide)

(Tadeson/A. Wilson)

That Report BOH25013, dated July 7, 2025, respecting Feasibility of Implementing Wastewater Surveillance (City Wide), be received.

CARRIED

9.4 Board of Health Representative Update respecting the 2025 alPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference

Councillor Cassar and Member Kirkby provided the Committee with an overview of their experience in attending the 2025 alPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference.

(Hwang/Danko)

That the Board of Health Representative Update respecting the 2025 alPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference, be received.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no Committee Recommendations.

11. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

12. MOTIONS

There were no Motions.

13. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Councillor Tadeson introduced the following Notice of Motion:

13.1 Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocol at Binbrook Conservation Area

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) oversees beaches within the jurisdiction of two municipal public health units: Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton. The NPCA conducts beach monitoring and assessment of its beaches within Niagara Region, as agreed upon with the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, and communicates results, water quality and risks to NPCA conservation area visitors. The City of Hamilton currently reports the beach water testing results, including Binbrook Conservation Area, to beachgoers. This current practice results in conflicting beach testing, water quality and risk messaging being communicated to park visitors and beachgoers between NPCA's Niagara and Hamilton beaches;

WHEREAS Binbrook Conservation Area Beach is located on land owned and operated by the NPCA, and does not fall within the legal definition of a "public beach" under the Ontario Public Health Standards, Recreational Water Protocol, 2019. A "public beach" is defined as a public bathing area owned and operated by a municipality to which the general public has access;

WHEREAS In 2019, the NPCA updated its beach management program within Niagara Region by shifting away from public health unit-led lab testing and toward an environmental risk-based approach in accordance with the Ontario Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline;

WHEREAS NPCA currently manages water quality testing programs for NPCA-owned beaches throughout its watershed, and has established protocols that include daily on-site monitoring of environmental and physical water conditions, weekly beach water sampling and laboratory

testing, and responsive public notification protocols based on real-time observations that include posting results on the NPCA webpage;

WHEREAS Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) conducts weekly beach water sampling, but results typically take 24–48 hours, which can lead to delayed or outdated public notifications;

WHEREAS NPCA staff are willing to take forward recommendations to their Board of Directors to seek resolution for the beach water quality testing of the Binbrook Conservation Area Beach, including considerations for releasing the City of Hamilton from legal liabilities related to health issues that may be a result of beach water quality, and the assumption of costs that would allow HPS to reallocate resources to other beaches within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Health Services be directed to engage in formal discussions with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to explore the feasibility, legal authority, and operational requirements for transitioning beach water quality testing and public swimming advisories at Binbrook Conservation Area Beach from Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) to NPCA staff;
- (b) That staff report back to the Board of Health and/or another appropriate Standing Committee with findings and recommendations no later than Q3 2025;
- (c) That the report consider relevant legal opinions, service delivery models, operational impacts, communication strategies, public safety considerations, and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration;
- (d) That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the NPCA Board of Directors for information.

14. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private & Confidential Items.

15. BY-LAWS

(A. Wilson/Hwang)

That Bills No. 25-001 to No. 25-003 be passed and the By-laws, be numbered, be signed by the Chair and Secretary to read as follows:

- 001 A By-law to Govern the Proceedings of the Board of Health and Committees of the Board of Health

002 Delegation of Authority By-law

003 To Confirm Proceedings of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton
Public Health Unit

CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board of Health was adjourned at 11:20
a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Trennum
Secretary
Board of Health

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Chair
Board of Health

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: May 13, 2025 10:14 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Submitted on Tue, 05/13/2025 - 22:14

Reference number 68862

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Keithan Vigna

Healthcare Hacks (McMaster University)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

I am writing to formally request a delegation opportunity at an upcoming meeting of the Public Health Subcommittee of Hamilton City Council on behalf of the winning team from Healthcare Hacks 2025. Healthcare Hacks is a student-led health innovation competition that brings together post-secondary students from diverse disciplines to design creative and community-focused solutions to current challenges in healthcare. This year's event, held in partnership with local health and academic organizations, focused on barriers to access in the healthcare system. The winning team, Team HeartHax, would like to present their project, a 3-minute presentation highlighting their innovative

solution aimed at improving healthcare accessibility. This presentation is not only an opportunity for the students to share their work, but also a chance for the City of Hamilton to connect directly with youth voices and emerging leaders in healthcare innovation. We believe this dialogue between students and civic leaders can foster fresh perspectives and inspire collaborative efforts toward improving health outcomes in our city. Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know if any further information is required.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

Yes

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 11:59 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Submitted on Thu, 07/03/2025 - 11:58

Reference number 74206

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Miriam Sager

Hamilton 350



Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Speak to the Health Board about a measure to help avert the looming health crisis of extreme heat

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 2:31 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Submitted on Thu, 07/03/2025 - 14:30

Reference number 74228

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Don McLean



Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

Proposal for heat emergency action to utilize transit vehicles as mobile cooling centres during designated heat emergency days.

For July 7 meeting.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 4:58 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Submitted on Wed, 07/02/2025 - 16:58

Reference number 74132

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Joanna Sargent

Hamilton 350



Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Requesting support for our emergency heat relief proposal.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: Friday, July 4, 2025 10:21 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Submitted on Fri, 07/04/2025 - 10:20

Reference number 74291

Submitted on

Committee Requested

Committee

Public Health Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

DR JAMES S QUINN

Hamilton 350 committee



Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

I will be asking this Board to support the proposal from Hamilton 350 to implement transit fare-optional policy on city-designated heat emergency days, as the previous Board of Health has supported. As we know, extreme heat poses a serious threat to public health & leads to more emergency room visits, hospitalizations and even deaths. Those who are most vulnerable to these health risks are also those least able to afford transit fares. This proposal would allow vulnerable Hamiltonians to access cooling centres & to use the buses themselves for temporary cooling. A transit fare-optional policy on designated heat emergency days will become more urgent as the climate continues to warm at an

accelerated rate. This proposal sent to City Council by Hamilton 350 has also been endorsed by the Council of Canadians, ACORN, HCCI, HDLC, Environment Hamilton, and Hamilton Community Benefits Network.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No



Hamilton Board of Health Report for Information

To: Chair and Members
Hamilton Board of Health

Date: July 28, 2025

Report No: BOH25014

Subject/Title: Public Health Services 2024 Annual Performance & Accountability Report

Ward(s) Affected: (City Wide)

Recommendations

- 1) That Report BOH25014, respecting Public Health Services' 2024 Annual Performance & Accountability Report, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- Each year, Public Health Services brings forward a report respecting its programmatic and financial performance in delivering the Ontario Public Health Standards to the Board of Health, the Ministry of Health, and the public;
- Under the Ontario Public Health Standards, boards of health must report annually to the Ministry of Health on program and financial performance through an Annual Report and Attestation. The performance results in Board of Health Report BOH25014 will inform this submission;
- Boards of health are also required to publish an annual performance and financial report for the public to enhance transparency and raise awareness of local public health issues and services. The 2024 Public Health Services Annual Performance & Financial Report, is provided as Appendix "B" to Report BOH25014; and,
- Report BOH25014 provides contextual information on Public Health Services' progress towards its multi-year priorities to support future strategic decision making.

Financial Considerations

Not Applicable.

Background

Public Health Services provides an Annual Performance & Accountability Report to the Board of Health.

Analysis

The Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability (Ontario Public Health Standards) set the minimum requirements for public health programs and services delivered by boards of health across the province. These standards include 90 outcome-based requirements related to the five core public health functions:

1. Assessment and surveillance;
2. Health promotion and policy development;
3. Health protection;
4. Disease prevention; and,
5. Emergency management.

Under the Ontario Public Health Standards, boards of health must report annually to the Ministry of Health on program and financial performance through an Annual Report and Attestation, due June 30, 2025. The performance and financial results in Board of Health Report BOH25014 informed this submission.

Boards of health are also required to publish an annual performance and financial report for the public to enhance transparency and raise awareness of local public health issues and services. Appendix “B” to Report BOH25014 fulfils this requirement, and will be made available on the City of Hamilton’s website at <https://www.hamilton.ca/people-programs/public-health>.

The Ontario Public Health Standards are currently under review as part of the Provincial strategy to strengthen public health in Ontario. Final revised standards are expected in August 2025, with full implementation set for January 1, 2026.

Public Health Services also provides programs beyond those required under the Ontario Public Health Standards to address local needs. These services are either 100% Provincially funded (i.e., Child & Adolescent Services, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, and Mental Health & Street Outreach Program) or 100% Municipally funded (i.e., Municipal Dental Treatment Program).

As part of our journey to Build Back Better and Stronger, we are upgrading our financial software systems to support more complete, accurate, reliable, and timely financial reporting. This transition will strengthen our financial processes and may result in minor adjustments once final reports are reviewed.

2024 Attestation of Compliance with the Ontario Public Health Standards

As part of the Ministry of Health's Annual Report & Attestation, boards of health must complete a certificate of attestation to demonstrate compliance with the Organizational Requirements outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards. In 2024, Public Health Services met 58 of 63 organizational requirements. This marks a slight decrease from the previous year, when it fully complied with 63 out of 64 requirements (see Public Health Committee Report BOH24012). The five unmet requirements were due to temporary operational disruptions that impacted the timely delivery of some services and reporting functions.

Under the Delivery of Programs and Services domain, Public Health Services partially met the requirement to conduct routine inspections of all high- and moderate-risk fixed food premises in accordance with the Food Safety Protocol, 2019. All high-risk inspections were completed, and 95% of moderate-risk inspections were conducted. In Q4, some staff were temporarily reallocated to support the restoration and transcription of electronic inspection records, contributing to the shortfall. Routine inspections for all high-risk and moderate-risk premises will continue as part of regular business operations in 2025. Public Health Services also partially met the requirement to publicly disclose all required inspection results and related information. On-site disclosure for food premises continued through the standardized three-card system (i.e. Green (Pass), Yellow (Conditional Pass), and Red (Closed)), and infection prevention and control (IPAC) lapse investigation reports were also posted as required. However, web-based reporting was delayed. The Health Inspections Disclosure website is being updated and will relaunch in 2025.

Under the Fiduciary Requirements domain, Public Health Services partially met its reporting obligations under Schedule C of the Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement due to the temporary inaccessibility of its financial system. While all programmatic performance reporting was completed and all financial records were maintained, several financial reporting deliverables could not be completed. Public Health Services received approval from the Ministry of Health to submit all outstanding financial reports retroactively in 2025 once system access is restored.

Under the Good Governance and Management Practices domain, Public Health Services partially fulfilled the requirement to review and revise by-laws, policies, and procedures at least every two years. The review and revision process was initiated in late Q4 2024 and will continue throughout 2025 to ensure full compliance.

Public Health Services' Priorities for 2024

As part of the 2024 Annual Service Plan and Budget, the Board of Health endorsed four key priorities to address Hamilton's population health needs over the coming years (see Public Health Committee Report BOH24001):

1. Health Equity;
2. Child and Youth Healthy Growth and Development;
3. Mental Health and Substance Use; and,
4. Climate Impacts.

These multi-year priorities reflect long-standing health challenges that require sustained, collaborative action across multiple sectors, with Public Health Services contributing as one partner among many in these efforts. In 2024, staff worked to implement specific actions to adapt and improve existing programs and services to address these multi-year priorities.

Public Health Services' Priorities for 2024: Progress Update

This section highlights key actions taken across Public Health Services to advance each of the four priority areas.

1. Health Equity

Public health plays an important role in identifying and addressing unfair and avoidable differences in health across the community. In 2024, Public Health Services worked to advance health equity by:

- Building staff knowledge and skills to apply health equity and anti-racism principles into program planning and service delivery;
- Strengthening the collection and use of data on the social determinants of health for Hamiltonians to better inform decisions and tailor services;
- Increasing engagement and collaboration with priority populations and community partners to better understand and address health inequities;
- Engaging with Indigenous communities and organizations to guide and support the development and delivery of culturally safe public health services; and,
- Measuring and demonstrating the impact of our programs on health inequities in our community.

Some examples include:

- 93% of staff completed foundational health equity and anti-racism training, with 91% of staff indicating it increased their knowledge of how to contribute to health equity and anti-racism action at work;
- The Public Health Leadership Team completing an assessment of the organization's capacity for health equity action;
- Engaging with community organizations and priority populations to develop the Community Health Status Report; and,
- Establishing the Indigenous Well-being Advisory Circle, in response to Public Health Services' Indigenous Health Strategy, to strengthen how Public Health Services and community partners engage with Indigenous communities.

2. Child and Youth Healthy Growth and Development

Public health plays a vital role in supporting healthy growth and development of children and youth by ensuring families have access to the information, skills, and supports they need to thrive. In 2024, Public Health Services contributed to this priority area by:

- Supporting mothers achieve optimal physical and mental health during pregnancy and after birth;
- Reducing the risk of poor social and emotional development among children aged zero to six years; and,
- Strengthening school-based supports in partnerships with school boards to promote mental health, improve access to dental care, and increase vaccination coverage among school-aged children and youth.

Key activities included:

- Developing strategies to identify individuals with prenatal risk factors, which led to more intake assessments and higher enrolment in prenatal programs, including expanded access to virtual prenatal education;
- The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program completed 929 prenatal screens, helping connect families to services that support healthy pregnancies and birth outcomes;
- Public Health Services led a community-level planning initiative to facilitate access to mental health supports for children turning four years old to six years old, which resulted in a new pathway for parents and caregivers to get help;
- Theraplay Program registrations reached full capacity, with 93% of participating parents and caregivers reporting improved knowledge, ability, or confidence;
- Dental staff completed 16,643 dental screenings last school year and enrolled 727 children in the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program; and,
- 90 Hamilton schools completed Healthy Schools Certification, of which 40 were identified as high-priority schools.

3. Mental Health and Substance Use

Public health plays a critical role in supporting individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, while also addressing the broader impact on the community. In 2024, Public Health Services focused its efforts on:

- Strengthening our approach to trauma- and violence-informed care;
- Leading the review of the Municipal Alcohol Policy to mitigate the harms associated with alcohol use on municipal properties; and,
- Enhancing harm reduction education, programs, and services to support safer substance use among people who use substances.

Key actions included:

- Initiating the integration of trauma- and violence-informed care across Public Health programs to create more culturally, emotionally, and physically safe services;
- The Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee was re-engaged to identify priority substances. The Alcohol and Opioid Working Groups advanced strategic plans in collaboration with community partners; and,

- Public Health Services also led the City staff working group that reviewed the Municipal Alcohol Policy to align City property events with safe drinking guidelines, promoting healthier, and safer events.

4. Climate Impacts

Public Health Services plays a key role in protecting health by helping the community adapt to a changing climate and build resilience. In 2024, Public Health Services worked towards this goal by:

- Increasing surveillance, public awareness, and detection of climate-sensitive vector-borne diseases to reduce the incidence in the Hamilton community;
- Promoting the development of healthy built and natural environments and mitigating the impacts of climate change; and,
- Increasing preparedness and public awareness to respond to threats of climate change.

Some examples of work in the area of climate change include:

- The development and Board of Health approval of a Community Heat Response Strategy;
- The launch of a real-time heat-related illness situational report to monitor the local population health impacts of extreme heat;
- The distribution of 748 “Cool Kits” to individuals identified as having high vulnerability to extreme heat; and,
- In partnership with the City of Hamilton’s Recreation Division, more than 1,500 Hamilton Street Railway bus tickets were distributed to help residents access designated community-wide “cool places” during a heat warning of any duration.

Further information regarding advancements within each of these four priority areas is provided in Appendix “A” to Report BOH25014, 2024 Progress Snapshot: Public Health Services Priority Areas and Appendix “B” to Report BOH25014, Public Health Services 2024 Annual Performance & Financial Report to the Public.

2024 Financial Performance

This report outlines financial information for programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards, as required within the Standards. For 2025, with the updated financial system, financial information and performance will be included for all Public Health Programs.

In 2024, the total budget (base and one-time) for programs and services under the Province’s Mandatory Program and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program was \$49.3 M in expenditures, with approximately \$14.5 M coming from the levy, \$34.1 M coming from the Province and \$700 K coming from fees and other revenues. Over the course of the year, the Ministry required local public health agencies to provide

additional COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunizations and offered Public Health Services an additional 100% funding in the amount of \$1.6 M to support these efforts.

- **Base Funding:**

- **Mandatory Programs – Cost-Shared**

- **(75% Provincially Funded / 25% Municipally Funded):**

- The Ministry of Health granted \$29.7 M as the Provincial share to support the delivery of programs and services under the Ontario Public Health Standards (Mandatory Programs). The City of Hamilton approved a tax operating levy contribution of \$14.5 M to support the delivery of programs and services.

- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program**

- **(100% Provincially funded):**

- The Ministry of Health approved a total of \$4.4 M in funding, of which \$4.1 M was base funding and \$0.3 M was one-time funding. This additional funding was agreed to by the Province to address costs related to denturists and specialists.

- **One-Time Funding:**

The Ministry of Health approved several additional one-time, 100% Provincially funded opportunities. The funding timelines were either January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, or April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. Boards of Health are required to report actuals for both timelines up to December 31, 2024.

- **COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunization Program:**

- On March 26, 2025, the Ministry of Health granted an additional \$1.6 M to cover the additional costs related to the COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) Immunization Programs.

- **Public Health Inspector Practicum Program:**

- For the period of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, Public Health Services requested \$10 K to hire Public Health Inspector Trainees for program support and to provide future Public Health Inspectors with training and hands-on field experience. This funding has been in place for many years and must be requested annually. The Ministry of Health granted \$10 K.

- **Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Capital - Public Health Services Seniors Dental Clinic:**

- On March 26, 2025, the Ministry of Health granted an additional \$0.3 M to cover the cost of building two operatories for Public

Health Services' Seniors Dental Clinics with a dedicated instrument reprocessing and sterilization area. The project was completed in March 2024.

As part of our journey to Build Back Better and Stronger, we are transitioning, restoring, and enhancing our financial systems to enable us to move from the manual process we have relied on to a new financial software system, which will enable us to provide complete, accurate, reliable, and timely financial reporting. As such, minor adjustments may occur once the transition is complete, and we can review the final reports. Consequently, our year-end position will be communicated once this information is available.

Alternatives

Not Applicable.

Previous Reports Submitted

- [BOH24001](#) – **2024 Annual Service Plan and Budget and Public Health Priorities**
This report outlines Public Health Services' priorities and planned activities for 2024. It forms the foundation for the performance update provided in Public Health-Sub Committee Report BOH25014.
- [BOH24012](#) – **Public Health Services 2023 Annual Performance and Accountability Report**
This report details Public Health Services' programmatic and financial performance in 2023 that was shared with the Public Health Committee, the Ministry of Health, and the public.

Consultation

- David Trevisani, Manager, Finance & Administration, Healthy and Safe Communities Department

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix "A" to Report BOH25014:	2024 Progress Snapshot: Public Health Services' Priority Areas
Appendix "B" to Report BOH25014:	Public Health Services' 2024 Annual Performance and Financial Report to the Public

Prepared by: Konrad Lisnyj, Senior Project Manager
Public Health Services, Healthy Families Division
Planning & Competency Development

Submitted and recommended by: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services, Office of the Medical Officer of Health

HEALTH EQUITY



PRIORITY GOAL

To decrease health inequities such that everyone has equal opportunities for optimal health and can attain their full health potential without disadvantage due to social position or other socially determined circumstances.

COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

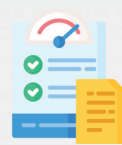
Action Area Goal: Enhance staff competency to improve equitable health outcomes in programs.



93% of staff have completed Health Equity and Anti-Racism training, with **91% of staff** indicating the training had increased their knowledge of how to contribute to health equity and anti-racism action at work.

DATA FOR EQUITY

Action Area Goal: Enhance the collection and use of data on the social determinants of health for Hamiltonians.



All programs developed health equity key performance indicators to monitor and reduce local health inequities, with **full implementation in 2025** of these measures.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Action Area Goal: Increase engagement with priority populations in identifying and addressing health inequities and collaborate with community partners.

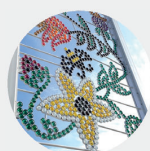


WITH THE 2024 RELEASE OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH STATUS REPORT, community organizations and priority populations were engaged to help shape a meaningful report.

THE CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM HAD

13 community engagement activities with priority populations and

18 new and ongoing partnerships with organizations serving those populations.



In response to Public Health Services' Indigenous Health Strategy, the **Indigenous Well-being Advisory Circle** was established to provide collective Indigenous expertise and consultation to health and social service organizations.

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Action Area Goal: Measure and demonstrate the impact of programs on health inequities in our community.

2,839

LOW-INCOME SENIORS ACCESSED FREE DENTAL CLINIC SERVICES THROUGH THE ONTARIO SENIORS DENTAL CARE PROGRAM.



At discharge, **96% of one-parent families** participating in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children's Home Visiting Program, achieved their goals for healthy attachment with their child.

494.6K

total views of Instagram posts.

Public Health Services continues to use storytelling and real-life examples across social media to make our work more accessible and relatable to the community.



CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



PRIORITY GOAL

To achieve optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health, and to achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools.

OPTIMAL PRENATAL HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Improve health and mental health during pregnancy and the immediate postpartum period.



40% OF PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS IN HAMILTON ACCESSED

Healthy Growth and Development prenatal supports, **exceeding the 25% target.**

Strategies to identify individuals with prenatal risk factors boosted intake assessments, program enrollment and access to virtual education. **THE HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN PROGRAM COMPLETED 929 PRENATAL SCREENS, CONNECTING THOSE WITH RISK FACTORS** to supports during pregnancy that promote healthy birth outcomes.

INFANT AND EARLY YEARS MENTAL HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Reduce the number of children aged 0-6 years at risk for poor social and emotional development.

874

CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLING THROUGH THE CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES PROGRAM.



APPROXIMATELY ONE QUARTER OF BRIEF COUNSELLING SESSIONS WERE COMPLETED IN TARGETED COMMUNITY LOCATIONS.



Community planning facilitating access to mental health support for 3.9 to 6-year-olds resulted in a new pathway for parents and caregivers to get help.



of children referred to the 0 to 3.8-year-old pathway were connected to developmental and/or mental health services.

OPTIMAL HEALTH OF SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Action Area Goal: In partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools, improve the mental health and well-being of school aged children and youth, increase access to oral health care services for children and youth, and reduce the burden of disease and absence from school due to lapsed immunization vaccinations and records.

16,643

DENTAL SCREENINGS WERE COMPLETED, with approximately 9% of children who were screened having an urgent dental need.



74% of 7-year-old students and **88% of 17 year-old students** enrolled in Hamilton Schools were vaccinated for Meningococcal Disease in the 2023-24 school year.

Vaccine target rate: 90%

725

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED in the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program in the 2023-24 school year.



90 Hamilton schools completed Healthy School Certification, where **40 were high-priority schools.** After certification, all priority schools reported positive impacts on student health and well-being.



MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

PRIORITY GOAL

To promote community mental health and well-being and reduce the burden of substance use.

MUNICIPAL POLICIES ON SUBSTANCE USE

Action Area Goal: Enhance the Municipal Alcohol Policy to mitigate the harms associated with alcohol use on municipal properties.



Led the City staff working group that reviewed the [Municipal Alcohol Policy](#) to align City property events with safe drinking guidelines, promoting healthier & safer events.



City Council decided to maintain the 2011 Municipal Alcohol Policy.

TRAUMA-AND VIOLENCE-INFORMED CARE

Action Area Goal: Strengthen Public Health Services' approach to trauma-and violence-informed care.



Initiated the integration of trauma-and violence-informed care into public health programs to ensure [culturally, emotionally, and physically safe services](#).



Included [staff training, policy development, and planning](#) environmental assessments to improve the safety and comfort of public health spaces.



Future work will expand staff training, adoption of policies across programs, and promotion of approaches to community organizations and services.

HARM REDUCTION

Action Area Goal: Enhance harm reduction education, programs, and services to support safer substance use among people who use substances.



Re-engaged the [Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee](#) to identify priority substances. Strategic plans advanced through the Alcohol and Opioid Working Groups in collaboration with community partners.

Quit Clinics worked effectively for their target populations:



33%

of clients who identified with having mental health concerns were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up.



37%

of clients whose annual before tax income was <\$60,000 were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up.

For reference, according to Cancer Care Ontario, [only 2% of Ontarians who quit smoking stay smoke free](#) for at least 12 months.



14,173

clients accessed supplies to reduce risk of harms associated with substance use.



79%

more eligible external stakeholders distributed [naloxone kits](#) through the Ontario Naloxone Program.

TARGET: 20%



38%

increase in the number of community partner agencies providing supplies through the [Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution](#).

TARGET: 10%



CLIMATE IMPACTS

PRIORITY GOAL

To promote healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate, and to enable consistent and effective management of emergency situations.

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

Action Area Goal: Increase surveillance, public awareness, and detection of climate-sensitive vector-borne diseases to reduce the incidence of vector-borne disease in the Hamilton community.



61 TICKS

submitted by the public directly to Public Health Services for identification.



12.5% OF 80 MOSQUITO POOLS

tested positive for mosquito-borne viruses (**West Nile Virus, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis**).

Measures align with the objective of increasing awareness of tick identification and prevention measures in Hamilton.

Lyme disease cases have increased in Hamilton since 2013, with the highest number of cases seen to date (79) reported in 2023. This reflects a broader pattern across Ontario. More cases may be reported as more individuals seek testing and treatment because of increased public and physician awareness of Lyme disease. Improvements to surveillance and diagnostic methods may also contribute to a higher number of identified cases.



2 CASES

of **West Nile Virus** were reported.



74 CASES

of **Lyme Disease** were reported.

Case numbers include locally acquired and travel-related origins.

EXTREME HEAT AND HEALTH

Action Area Goal: Promote the development of healthy built and natural environments and mitigate the impacts of climate change.



748 COOL KITS

were distributed to individuals identified as having high vulnerability to extreme heat.



A new "**Heat-Related Illness Situational Report**" was used to monitor the local population health impacts of extreme heat in real-time.



the **Community Heat Response Strategy** was approved by the Board of Health.



>1,500 BUS TICKETS

Distributed to local residents for travel to and from community-wide "**cool spaces**" during a heat warning of any duration in partnership with Hamilton Street Railway.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Action Area Goal: Increase preparedness and public awareness to respond to threats related to climate change.

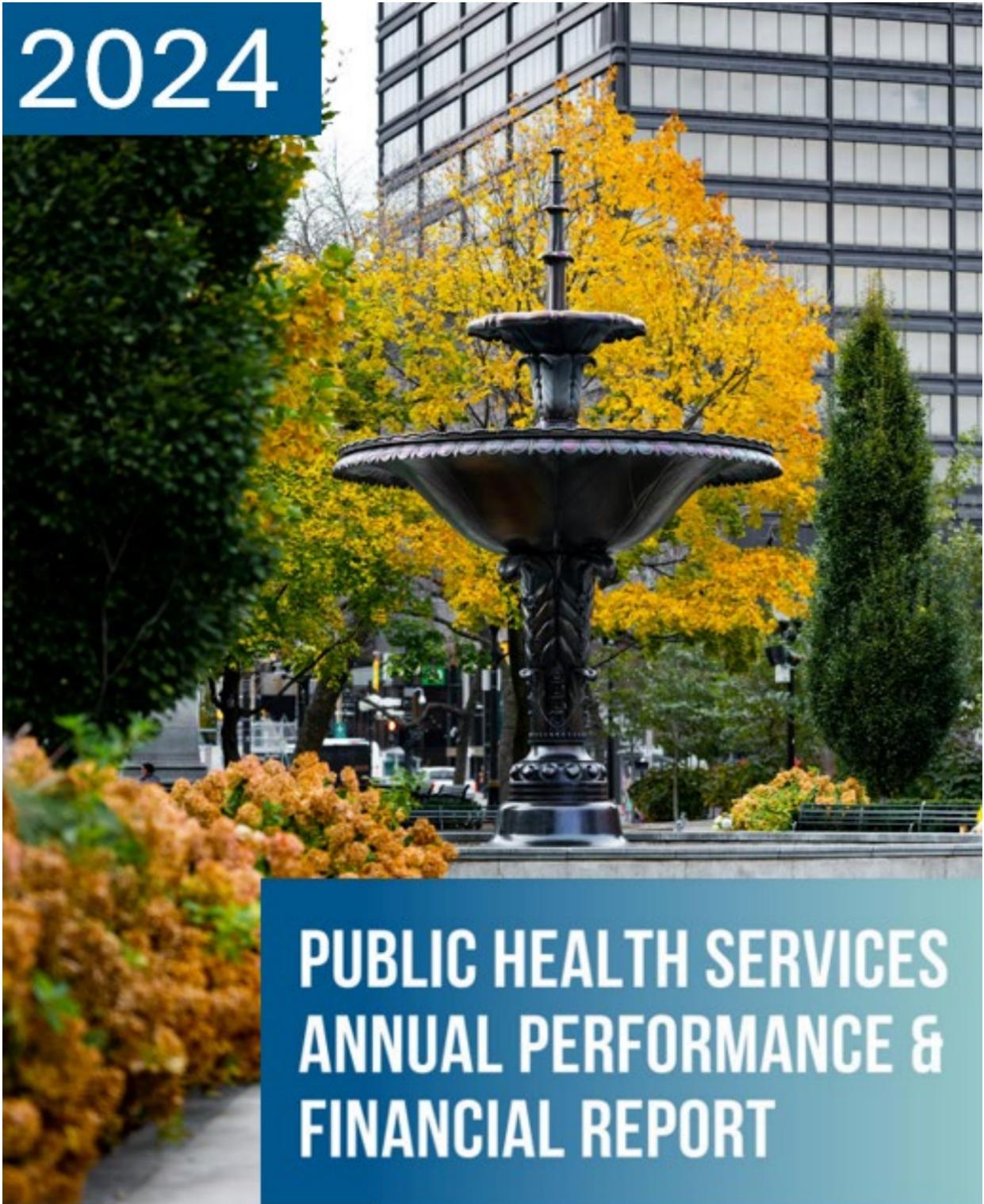


Public health messaging was delivered through media interviews on the health **impacts of wildfire smoke, extreme cold, and heat-related illness**.



Mandatory **emergency preparedness training** was implemented for all staff.

2024



**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE &
FINANCIAL REPORT**



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF HEALTH CHAIR, 2024 MAYOR ANDREA HORWATH

On behalf of the City of Hamilton and the Board of Health, I am proud to share the highlights of the 2024 Public Health Annual Performance and Financial Report.

In this year's Annual Report, we emphasize key priorities that will shape the future of our community: health equity, the healthy growth and development of our children and youth, mental health and substance use support, and the impacts of climate change on public health. Our collective efforts in these areas have supported a more equitable future.

Through our shared commitment, we have made meaningful strides in eliminating barriers to ensure that every Hamiltonian can live a long, healthy life. While challenges persist, I am deeply proud of the progress we have made together in advancing public health and well-being for all.

Thank you to every resident who has contributed to our accomplishments.

Together, we are moving forward with a purpose and a shared vision to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF HAMILTON'S MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DR. ELIZABETH RICHARDSON

Hamilton Public Health Services remains dedicated to improving the health of the entire community. With this, I am pleased to share the 2024 Public Health Services Annual Performance and Financial Report with you all.

This report goes beyond statistics; more importantly, it tells the story of resilience, compassion, and progress that shape our journey to build a healthier Hamilton community.

This report highlights the work we've been doing over the past year since emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic to address the health needs of our community: from promoting fair access to public health services to helping children grow up healthy, to supporting people facing mental health and substance use challenges, and even tackling the health impacts of climate change. Of course, this achievement relies on the dedication of our staff and the invaluable collaborative support of our community partners.

As you read the report, I encourage you to reflect on the real people and stories behind the numbers. Together, we're working towards a healthier Hamilton for generations to come.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

WHAT DO WE DO?

Hamilton Public Health Services offers a wide variety of programs and services to meet the requirements set out in the Ontario Public Health Standards and support the health and well-being of the Hamilton community. This includes preventing illness and disease through vaccination and case management, promoting healthy habits, and ensuring the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places we gather are safe. We also work to reduce health inequities by making supports more accessible to those for those who need them most in our community.



OUR PRIORITIES

Hamilton Public Health Services has a broad mandate and limited resources, making it important to focus efforts where they will have the greatest impact. Each year, the Hamilton Public Health Services’ Leadership Team revisits their multi-year priorities to ensure they are still relevant and that resources are directed to the most pressing community health needs. This review considers the current context, including updated local community health status information, and the financial and political landscapes at both the Provincial and local levels.

These priorities reflect long-standing health challenges that require sustained, collaborative action across multiple sectors, with Hamilton Public Health Services contributing as one partner among many in these efforts. Because of the complexity of these issues, it can often take several years to see the impact of our work in the community. Many of the actions taken in 2024 will continue over the coming years.

In 2024, the following four multi-year priorities were renewed:

- [Health Equity](#)
- [Child and Youth Healthy Growth and Development](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Use](#)
- [Climate Impacts](#)



HEALTH EQUITY

Health equity focuses on giving everyone a fair and equal opportunity to be as healthy as possible, regardless of their background, income, or life circumstances. Public health plays a key role in identifying unfair differences in health by adapting programs and services to better meet the needs of those most affected. This helps reduce health disparities and improve overall health outcomes across our community.

Focus Areas:

Competency
Development

Data for Equity

Community
Collaboration

Demonstrating
Impact

Competency Development

Building our staff’s knowledge, skills, and attitudes is essential for effectively addressing health inequities in a meaningful way. When our staff understand the complex root causes of health and social issues impacting our community, they are better equipped to design and deliver programs that meet the unique needs of those most impacted.

Achievements in 2024:

- 93% of staff members completed foundational health equity and anti-racism training, empowering them with tools to apply these principles to their daily work, with 91% of staff indicating the training had increased their knowledge of how to contribute to health equity and anti-racism action at work.
- Our leadership team engaged in an assessment of the organization’s capacity for health equity action. This process helped measure progress, identify gaps, and reinforce our collective commitment to advancing health equity across all levels of the organization.

Data for Equity

Collecting, analyzing, and using data to uncover health inequities is essential for driving meaningful change in our community. Strengthening how we collect and use data on the social determinants of health helps us better understand the root causes of health inequities, tailor programs and services to community needs, and assess whether our efforts are achieving the intended impact in the community.

Achievements in 2024:

- Developed health equity-focused key performance indicators for all programs to better monitor our progress toward reducing health inequities in the community.
- Released the Community Health Status Report, which provides key health information, including social determinants of health and health inequities, to guide internal public health planning and service delivery. This report can also be used to support broader community planning, local public policy development, and raises awareness of health issues, fostering a common understanding of the breadth of issues affecting our community’s well-being.



The Annual Hamilton Community Health Status Report was shared city-wide, including on Meta and X.

Sharing it publicly across our social platforms promote transparency and invites the community to review and provide feedback. The report highlights local health trends and helps identify ways to improve the well-being of Hamiltonians.

hamilton.ca/HealthData

Community Collaboration

Collaboration with the community is key to addressing health inequities. By increasing engagement with priority populations and community partners, we foster collaboration, inclusivity, empowerment, and a deeper understanding of local needs. Involving community members in co-design efforts help ensure our programs and services are equitable, responsive, culturally safe, and tailored to the diverse needs of Hamiltonians.

Achievements in 2024:



Established the Indigenous Well-being Advisory Circle to Advance Culturally Safe and Inclusive Health Programs

The Indigenous Well-being Advisory Circle is now formed. It is an important step towards fulfilling a key recommendation from the Indigenous community in the Public Health Services' Indigenous Health Strategy.

This Circle will act as a trusted voice for community and organizational interest holders, offering expertise and cultural perspectives to ensure health programs and initiatives are inclusive, are respectful of First Nation, Inuit, and Métis knowledges and practices, and are culturally safe for Indigenous Peoples. The Circle will help create spaces where Indigenous Peoples are safe, heard, and supported in their right to Indigenous self-determination and quality care.

– Public Health Services' Local Access Sites Program Manager



- In developing the Community Health Status Report, we engaged with several community organizations and priority populations, including Black and racialized communities, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, people with other lived experiences of marginalization (e.g., LGBTIQ+ and lower-income populations), and people accessing services in the healthcare sector. This engagement added context and meaning to the data, highlighting lived experiences and the intersectionality of issues.
- The Chronic Disease Prevention Program had 13 community engagement activities conducted with identified priority populations, and there were 18 new and ongoing partnerships with organizations serving those populations.

Demonstrating Impact

Measuring the impact of our programs is crucial to understanding how well we are addressing health inequities. It helps us know whether we are reaching the people who need our services most and whether we are closing health gaps in the community. It also promotes transparency, strengthens accountability, and helps identify areas where we can further improve.

Achievements in 2024:

- Expanded monitoring and reporting to better track how well our programs are reaching priority populations. For example:
 - 2,839 low-income seniors accessed free dental clinic services through the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.
 - 42% of initiatives undertaken by Chronic Disease Prevention Program were targeting priority populations.
 - At discharge, 96% of one-parent families participating in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children’s Home Visiting Program achieved their goals for healthy attachment with their baby or child.
- Continued to increase the visibility of public health efforts by using storytelling and real-life examples through social media and other platforms to ensure that our work is more accessible and relatable to the community.



CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Healthy growth and development focuses on achieving the best possible health through preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health. Public health plays a key role by providing families with timely information, resources, and programs they need to raise healthy children and youth. This work is especially important as we continue to address the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s health and development.

Focus Areas:

Optimal Prenatal
Health

Infant and Early
Years Mental Health

Optimal Health of
School-Aged
Children and Youth

Optimal Prenatal Health

The prenatal period, from pregnancy through birth, is a key time for the health of both pregnant individual and the baby. Providing the right support during this period can help prevent complications, improve birth outcomes, and give the child a healthy start in life. Supporting the physical and mental health of pregnant individuals during and after pregnancy is key to achieving these goals.

Achievements in 2024:

- Developed strategies to identify individuals with prenatal risk factors, which led to more intake assessments, higher enrollment in prenatal programs, and expanded access to virtual prenatal

education. This resulted in connecting 40% of pregnant individuals in Hamilton to prenatal supports, surpassing the 25% target, to ensure timely access to essential information and care.

- Completed 929 prenatal screens through the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, connecting those with risk factors during pregnancy to supports that promote healthy birth outcomes. This is a slight increase from 908 prenatal screens completed in 2023.



Welcome Baby Group Provides Much-Needed Support

A client was referred to public health by her obstetrician as she was a newcomer to Canada and was struggling with very low mood and energy and isolation during her pregnancy. After encouragement from her Healthy Babies Healthy Children public health nurse to attend the Public Health Welcome Baby Group in the community, she attended and made lovely connections with other group members from her home country and enjoyed a nutritious meal. She plans to continue with the group to get much needed support from the public health nurse, dietitian and group members during her pregnancy and postpartum period.

– Healthy Growth & Development Program Manager

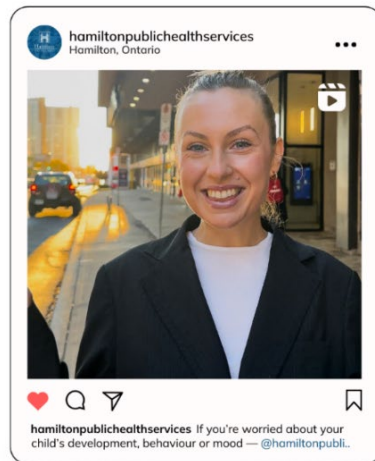


Infant and Early Years Mental Health

Mental health in the early years is key to a child’s overall development. The experiences during the first few years of life shape one’s emotional and social well-being, impacting long-term outcomes well into adulthood. Providing support during these early years helps build protective factors and reduce the risk of poor social and emotional development among children aged 0 to 6 years.

Achievements in 2024:

- Led a community planning initiative to improve access to mental health supports for children aged 3.9- to 6-year-olds, which resulted in a new pathway for parents and caregivers to get help, which will be launched in 2025.
- Ensured all children referred to the 0- to 3.8-year-old pathway were connected to appropriate developmental or mental health services.
- 874 children and youth aged 0 to 18 years old received mental health counselling through the Child & Adolescent Services Program.
- Approximately one quarter of all brief counselling sessions were completed in targeted community locations.
- Provided play-based therapy for children aged 0 to 6. Theraplay sessions reached capacity, with 93% of parents and caregivers reporting improved knowledge, ability, or confidence.



An ongoing collaboration between Hamilton Public Health Services and HamOnt Youth, this Reel highlights the free Mental Health Walk-In Clinic — supported and provided by the Child and Adolescent Services program.

hamilton.ca/MentalHealth

Optimal Health of School-Aged Children and Youth

Hamilton Public Health Services partners with schools and school boards to support the health and well-being of children. This includes promoting students' mental health and well-being, improving access to oral health care services, especially for students facing barriers, and increasing vaccination rates to reduce preventable diseases and school absences. Strengthening these school-based supports helps improve overall health outcomes among school-aged children and youth.

Achievements During the 2023-24 School Year:

- Supported 90 Hamilton schools to complete the National Healthy Schools Certification, of which 40 were high-priority schools. This process engages students and adults in creating healthier school communities.
- Completed dental screenings for 16,643 students to catch oral health issues early, prevent dental problems, and promote overall oral health among students. Approximately 9% of children screened had an urgent dental need.
- Enrolled 725 children in the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program to provide free dental care to low-income children.
- Improved vaccine coverage, with 74% of 7-year-olds and 88% of 17-year-olds enrolled in Hamilton schools receiving the Meningococcal vaccine, though this was below the 90% target. Data may not represent true coverage rates, as it relies on vaccines reported by parents.



MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

Improving mental health and reducing the burden of substance use are critical for our community's health and well-being. Public health plays a key role in supporting individuals facing these challenges through prevention, reducing harms, direct support, and by addressing broader impacts on the community.

Focus Areas:

**Trauma- and
Violence-Informed
Care**

**Municipal Policies
on Substance Use**

Harm Reduction

Trauma- and Violence-Informed Care

A trauma- and violence-informed approach recognizes the lasting impact of trauma on the well-being of individuals and the community. Hamilton Public Health Services is committed to embedding principles of safety, trust, and empowerment across all programs and settings. This work is critical to making care more culturally responsive and emotionally and physically safe, especially for those who have experienced trauma.

Achievement in 2024:

- Began integrating trauma- and violence-informed care into its programs to ensure culturally, emotionally, and physically safe services. Early efforts included training select staff to build awareness and capacity, beginning to develop an organization-wide policy, and planning environmental assessments to improve the safety and comfort of public health spaces. This work will continue in the coming years with expanded staff training and broader adoption and application of trauma- and violence-informed care practices across all programs, as well as efforts to promote trauma- and violence-informed approaches among community organizations and services that interact with people who use substances.

Municipal Policies on Substance Use

Addressing substance use challenges in our community requires a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach. By advancing healthy public policies grounded in health promotion, we can effectively address substance use issues within the community. Evidence-based policies not only strengthen public health initiatives but also work to reduce the impact of substance use on communities.

Achievement in 2024:

- Led the City staff working group that reviewed the Municipal Alcohol Policy to align City property events with safe drinking guidelines, promoting healthier, and safer events. City Council decided to maintain the 2011 Municipal Alcohol Policy.

Harm Reduction

Adopting strategies to reduce harms associated with substance use acknowledges the challenges of substance use and prioritizes community well-being. Hamilton Public Health Services is committed to a compassionate, inclusive approach focused on enhancing education, programs, and services to support safer substance use among people who use substances. These strategies aim to promote safer practices, prevent overdose-related deaths, and reduce the spread of communicable diseases. By meeting individuals

where they are in their substance use journey, we foster a more inclusive and compassionate approach to well-being.

Achievements in 2024:

- Re-engaged the Hamilton Drug Strategy Steering Committee to identify priority substances.
- Advanced strategic plans through the Alcohol and Opioid Working Groups, in collaboration with community partners.
- Supported 14,173 clients to access supplies to reduce the risk of harms associated with substance use.
- Increased the number of eligible external stakeholders distributing naloxone kits by 79% through the Ontario Naloxone Program, well above the 20% target.
- Increased the number of community partner agencies providing supplies by 38% through the Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program, surpassing the 10% target.
- Hamilton Public Health Services’ Quit Clinics worked effectively for their target populations, where 33% of clients who identified with having mental health concerns were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up, and 37% of clients whose annual before tax income was <\$60,000 were smoke free at their 12-month follow-up. For reference, according to Cancer Care Ontario, only 1.9% of Ontarians who quit smoking stay free for at least 12 months.



Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services Program Provided Access and Support

An individual referred themselves to Public Health Services’ Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services (ADGS) Program. They were looking for support to stop drinking and were not sure what help was available and how to take their first step. They spoke to an ADGS social worker who provided information about supports, and together they decided that inpatient treatment would be a good fit. A further assessment was completed, and a referral was sent to the inpatient program they had chosen. During the wait for their admission to treatment, they were supported by their ADGS counsellor with regular check-ins and supportive counselling to help them feel confident and ready to go to treatment. Their primary care physician helped with completing medical forms and working with having their medication available when in treatment. The individual successfully entered treatment and returned to the Hamilton community feeling more confident to continue with the positive changes they made during treatment.

– Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services Program Manager





CLIMATE IMPACTS

Promoting healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigating existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate, are important to protecting the community's health. Public health plays a key role in raising awareness about heat-related illnesses and the spread of infectious diseases, while also developing strategies to help the community adapt and build resilience.

Focus Areas:

Vector-Borne
Diseases

Extreme Heat and
Health

Emergency
Management

Vector-Borne Diseases

Climate change is increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases in Hamilton. Warmer temperatures and shifting weather patterns allow disease-carrying vectors, like mosquitoes and ticks, to spread into new areas, putting more people at risk. Understanding how climate and health are connected is key to preventing illness and protecting our community. To reduce the illness of vector-borne diseases in the community, Hamilton Public Health Services is increasing surveillance, improving early detection, and raising public awareness of climate-sensitive vector-borne diseases in order to reduce the incidence in the Hamilton community.

Achievement in 2024:

- Conducted active surveillance through field collection of ticks in natural areas, and passive surveillance by identifying ticks submitted by the public. These efforts help detect ticks that transmit diseases of public health significance and guide prevention efforts in the community, resulting in 74 reported local cases of Lyme Disease.



Part of our education on vector-borne diseases involves showcasing what is being done to prevent, assess, and respond to vector-borne disease concerns.

The post demonstrates the annual spring surveillance conducted by our Health Hazards and Vector-Borne Diseases program to assess the local risk of human tick-borne infections by monitoring the presence of ticks in the area.

hamilton.ca/Ticks

Extreme Heat and Health

The impact of extreme heat, which has worsened by a changing climate, poses serious threats to the community’s health. Rising temperatures increase the risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths, especially among vulnerable populations such as older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and those with limited access to cooling. Hamilton Public Health Services is working to reduce these risks by promoting healthy built and natural environments and mitigating the impacts of climate change by advancing efforts to raise public awareness, improve access to supports, and strengthen community preparedness and resilience during heat events.

Achievements in 2024:

- Held 13 focus groups with a total of 133 community members and shared information about the hazards of extreme heat exposure along with protective measures to decrease the potential of heat-related illness.
- Launched a real-time heat-related illness situational report to monitor the local population health impacts of extreme heat and support decision-making during heat events.
- Distributed 748 “Cool Kits” to individuals identified as highly vulnerable to extreme heat, providing them with practical tools to stay safe during heat events.
- Partnered with the City of Hamilton’s Recreation Division to distribute more than 1,500 Hamilton Street Railway bus tickets, helping residents access designated community-wide “cool places” during a heat warning of any duration.



The Board of Health approved the Community Heat Response Strategy

Increases in heat-related illness and deaths are projected with future climate change impacts in the City of Hamilton. In 2024, the Health Hazards & Vector-Borne Diseases Team developed Hamilton’s Community Heat Response Strategy outlining 10 actions aiming to implement a comprehensive approach to extreme heat and population health protection. Through the use of innovative mapping tools, Wards 2, 3, and 4 in the City were identified as areas of greatest vulnerability and greatest exposure to extreme heat. This information is used to support targeted heat-related actions in the City of Hamilton. The actions focus on both individual interventions, such as education and outreach, which included conducting focus groups with residents vulnerable to the impacts of heat exposure to better understand their lived experiences of trying to stay cool during hot weather. Also, other actions include those with greater potential impacts that change the environmental context to make individuals’ default decisions healthy, like planting trees and installing shade structures.

– Health Hazards & Vector-Borne Diseases Program Manager



Emergency Management

Climate change increases the frequency and severity of health-related emergencies, such as extreme heat, cold, flooding, and wildfire smoke. These events can lead to increased illness, injury, and death, especially among vulnerable populations. To address these health risks, Hamilton Public Health Services is working to ensure the community is prepared and health systems are equipped to respond effectively during climate-related emergencies. This includes raising public awareness, supporting early action, and helping residents stay safe when faced with climate-related health threats.

Achievements in 2024:

- Implemented a mandatory emergency preparedness training module for all staff, providing foundational knowledge on public health-related legislation, the incident management system, and staff roles during emergencies.
- Delivered public health messaging through media interviews on the health impacts of wildfire smoke, extreme cold, and heat-related illness.

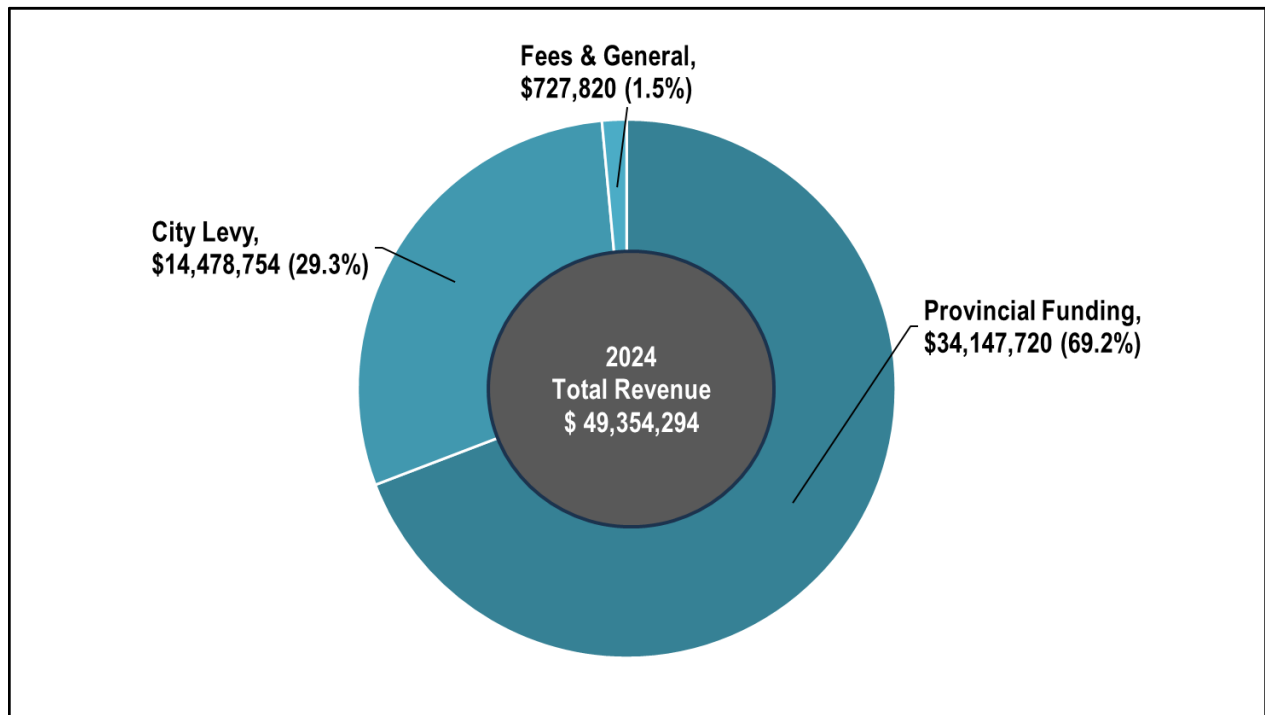


HAMILTON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES' FUNDING DATA

Most of Hamilton Public Health Services' programs are funded using a Provincial/Municipal cost-shared model, except for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, which is 100% Provincially funded. Hamilton Public Health Services also provides additional services beyond those required under the Ontario Public Health Standards to address local needs. These services are either 100% Provincially funded (Child & Adolescent Services, Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Mental Health & Street Outreach Program) or 100% Municipally funded (Municipal Dental Treatment Program).

- As part of our journey to Build Back Better and Stronger, we are transitioning, restoring, and enhancing our financial systems to enable us to move from the manual process we have relied on to a new financial software system, which will enable us to provide complete, accurate, reliable, and timely financial reporting. As such, minor adjustments may occur once the transition is complete.
- This report outlines financial information for programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards, as required within the Standards. For 2025, with the updated financial system, financial information and performance will be included for all of Hamilton Public Health Services' programs.

Graph 1: Hamilton Public Health Services’ Operating Budget – Revenue



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100 Main Street West, 6th Floor
Hamilton, ON
L8P 1H6

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Board of Health: July 28, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR M. TADESON.....

SECONDED BY.....

Beach Water Quality Testing and Advisory Protocols at Binbrook Conservation Area

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) oversees beaches within the jurisdiction of two municipal public health units: Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton. The NPCA conducts beach monitoring and assessment of its beaches within Niagara Region, as agreed upon with the Niagara Region Public Health Unit, and communicates results, water quality and risks to NPCA conservation area visitors. The City of Hamilton currently reports the beach water testing results, including Binbrook Conservation Area, to beachgoers. This current practice results in conflicting beach testing, water quality and risk messaging being communicated to park visitors and beachgoers between NPCA's Niagara and Hamilton beaches;

WHEREAS Binbrook Conservation Area Beach is located on land owned and operated by the NPCA, and does not fall within the legal definition of a "public beach" under the Ontario Public Health Standards, Recreational Water Protocol, 2019. A "public beach" is defined as a public bathing area owned and operated by a municipality to which the general public has access;

WHEREAS In 2019, the NPCA updated its beach management program within Niagara Region by shifting away from public health unit-led lab testing and toward an environmental risk-based approach in accordance with the Ontario Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline;

WHEREAS NPCA currently manages water quality testing programs for NPCA-owned beaches throughout its watershed, and has established protocols that include daily on-site monitoring of environmental and physical water conditions, weekly beach water sampling and laboratory testing, and responsive public notification protocols based on real-time observations that include posting results on the NPCA webpage;

WHEREAS Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) conducts weekly beach water sampling, but results typically take 24–48 hours, which can lead to delayed or outdated public notifications;

WHEREAS NPCA staff are willing to take forward recommendations to their Board of Directors to seek resolution for the beach water quality testing of the Binbrook Conservation Area Beach, including considerations for releasing the City of Hamilton

from legal liabilities related to health issues that may be a result of beach water quality, and the assumption of costs that would allow HPS to reallocate resources to other beaches within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Public Health Services be directed to engage in formal discussions with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to explore the feasibility, legal authority, and operational requirements for transitioning beach water quality testing and public swimming advisories at Binbrook Conservation Area Beach from Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) to NPCA staff;
- (b) That staff report back to the Board of Health with findings and recommendations no later than Q3 2025;
- (c) That the report consider relevant legal opinions, service delivery models, operational impacts, communication strategies, public safety considerations, and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration;
- (d) That the City Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the NPCA Board of Directors for information.

Bill No. 001

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE CITY OF HAMILTON PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

BY-LAW NO. BOH 25-004

To Confirm the Proceedings of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Unit at its meeting held on July 28, 2025.

**THE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
CITY OF HAMILTON PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT
ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the actions of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton Public Health Unit at its meeting held on the 28th day of July 2025, in respect of each motion, resolution and other action passed and taken by the Board of Health at its said meeting, is, hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.
2. That the Chair of the Board of Health, officials of the Board of Health and Hamilton Public Health are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the said action or to obtain approvals where required, and except where otherwise provided, the Chair and the Secretary of the Board of Health are hereby directed to execute all documents necessary in that behalf.

PASSED this 28th day of July 2025.

C. Kroetsch
Chair

M. Trennum
Secretary