

Update to Board of Health Members March 1, 2019

2019 alPHa Winter Symposium

Thank you to all those who attended our recently concluded 2019 Winter Symposium in Toronto. More than a hundred members from 34 health units convened on February 21 to hear discussion panels on the connection between public health and mental health, and managing risk, and participate in an orientation session for new board of health members and a business meeting for medical/associate medical officers of health. A highlight was an evening reception and special guest lecture co-hosted by the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Guest speaker Dr. Rueben Devlin, Special Advisor and Chair of the Premier's Council on Improving Health Care and Ending Hallway Medicine, presented the government's vision for excellence in health care. Full proceedings of the Symposium plenary sessions will be available to the membership shortly. In the meantime, alPHa sincerely thanks the presenters, conference planning committee members, and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health for their participation, assistance with and support of this event.

[View alPHa's photos from the Winter Symposium on Twitter here](#)

BOH Orientation

At the recent orientation session for new and returning board of health members, alPHa's Executive Director and Past President gave an overview of the association, its role and organizational structure, and the current public health system. alPHa legal counsel James LeNoury reviewed board of health liabilities, including general liabilities of board members and the responsibilities of boards of health under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Click the links below to see the slide decks (login and password required).

[View the orientation slide deck by alPHa](#)

[View the board of health liability presentation by J. LeNoury](#)

[Download the 2018 Orientation Manual for BOH Members](#)

[Download the Governance Toolkit for Ontario BOHs](#)

Health System Restructuring

On February 26, the Ontario government announced plans to introduce legislation that would, if passed, support the establishment of local Ontario Health Teams that connect health care providers and services around patients and families, and integrate multiple existing provincial agencies into a single health agency – Ontario Health. Existing agencies slated for integration include the 14 Local Health Integration Networks, Cancer Care Ontario, Health Quality Ontario and eHealth Ontario, among others. On February 27, first reading was passed on Bill 74, *The People's Health Care Act*, which would enable the proposed amendments to take place. Although public health was not mentioned in the announcement, alPHa will continue to monitor developments as they arise.

[Read Bill 74, The People's Health Care Act here](#)

[Read Ontario's announcement on health care reform here](#)

[Read the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's briefing on the announcement](#)

alPHA Responses & Communications

On February 12, alPHA responded to the first report of the Premier's Council on Improving Health Care and Ending Hallway Medicine, *Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain*. alPHA's letter underscored public health's role in health protection and illness prevention, activities that can help the government achieve its health mandate. The letter also included alPHA's pre-budget submission to government.

[Download alPHA's response to the Hallway Health Care report](#)

[Read the Hallway Health Care report here](#)

The Association also wrote to the Minister of Finance in response to provincial consultations on alcohol choice and convenience. alPHA's correspondence of January 31 outlined public health concerns regarding the negative health and societal impacts of increased availability of alcohol in the province. It also asks the government to develop a comprehensive provincial alcohol strategy.

[Read alPHA's letter on proposed changes to the sale of alcohol](#)

On January 30, alPHA's President presented the Association's pre-budget submission and public health resource paper to several Progressive Conservative MPPs in Whitby, Ontario. He spoke before Durham Region MPPs Lorne Coe, Lindsey Park and Doug Downey, parliamentary assistant to the finance minister. The opportunity to present was part of the government's 2019 budget consultations. alPHA's submission focused on public health's contributions in keeping people healthy and underscored their tremendous value. In support of the submission, alPHA also drafted a 2-page resource document. The communiqué is being used to start a conversation with MPPs about the importance of local public health and to demonstrate public health's strong return on investment.

[Read alPHA's pre-budget submission here](#)

[Read alPHA's public health resource paper here](#)

alPHA Correspondence

Check out our online library that houses the latest [letters and correspondences](#) sent by alPHA to government and other stakeholders on public health issues of the day. Scroll down and click the documents to view alPHA's letters of concern, responses to public consultations, and other materials, including responses from government.

Upcoming Events and Meetings for All Board of Health Members

June 9-11, 2019: Minding Public Health, [alPHA 2019 Annual General Meeting & Conference](#), Four Points by Sheraton Hotel & Suites, 285 King St. E., Kingston, Ontario. [Book your accommodations](#) now as space is limited. See a [save the date flyer](#). Program and registration details coming soon.

June 11, 2019 (during alPHA Annual Conference): alPHA Boards of Health Section Meeting

This update was brought to you by the Boards of Health Section Executive Committee of the alPHA Board of Directors. alPHA provides a forum for member boards of health and public health units in Ontario to work together to improve the health of all Ontarians. Any individual who sits on a board of health that is a member organization of alPHA is entitled to attend alPHA events and sit on the Association's various committees. Learn more about us at www.alphaweb.org