



April 18, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via e-mail: doug.ford@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9
Sent via email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott

During its regular board meeting on April 17, 2019, the Board of Health for the Perth District Health Unit reviewed the budget tabled by the government of Ontario on April 11, 2019 with regard to proposed changes to local public health, specifically:

- Changes to municipal-provincial cost-sharing (2019-2020)
- 35 local agencies to become 10 regional (2020-21)
- \$200M reduction (2021-2022) (Current provincial funding is ~\$750M)

Background considerations included:

- the aPHa letter to Dr. Devlin (regarding the First Report of the Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine: *Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain*) outlining the important role of Public Health in keeping communities strong and healthy and preventing people from becoming patients, and the excellent return on investment delivered by public health programs and services
- previous reports on the organization of public health in Ontario including the 2006 Report of the Capacity Review Committee, *Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity* and the 2017 Report of the Ministers Expert Panel *Public Health within an Integrated Health System*
- current work being taken to amalgamate Perth District Health Unit with Huron County Health Unit.

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Given the significant changes being proposed, the board moved to:

- Request the Province of Ontario to maintain the health protection and health promotion and prevention mandate of the Perth District Health Unit;
- Request the continued support of the Province of Ontario for the merger of the Perth District Health Unit and Huron County Health Unit;
- Request the Province of Ontario to maintain the current 75% provincial, 25% municipal funding formula for the Perth District Health and public health programs in Ontario;
- Request the Province of Ontario to stop the planned reduction of Ontario public health units from 35 to 10 and planned reduction of \$200 million (2021-2022) from public health and instead initiate consultations with municipalities and public health agencies on the public health system in Ontario;
- Direct the Medical Officer of Health and the Perth District Health Unit to work with the Association of Local Health Agencies to coordinate and support their efforts on responding to the Provincial cuts to public health in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Kathy Vassilakos,
Chair, Perth District Health Unit

cc: Mr. Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth Wellington
Mayor Dan Mathieson, City of Stratford
Mayor Todd Kasenburg, North Perth
Mayor Robert Wilhelm, Perth South
Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz, Perth East
Mayor Al Strathdee, Town of St. Marys
Mayor Walter McKenzie, West Perth
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, MOHLTC
All Boards of Health
All Health Units
Association of Local Public Health Units