



## Main Office – Belleville

179 North Park Street, Belleville, ON K8P 4P1  
**T:** 613-966-5500 | 1-800-267-2803 | **F:** 613-966-9418  
**TTY:** 711 or 1-800-267-6511  
[www.hpepublichealth.ca](http://www.hpepublichealth.ca)

May 01, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford  
 Premier of Ontario  
 Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
 Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
 (Sent via email to: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca) )

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 to: [christine.elliottco@ola.org](mailto:christine.elliottco@ola.org))

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott,

On behalf of Hastings Prince Edward Board of Health we are writing you today to express our concerns regarding the implications of the 2019 Provincial Budget, as well as to affirm our ability to contribute to Ontario's plans to modernize public health.

**While we recognize the need to implement a sustainable public health system in Ontario, we are urging you to implement any changes in a manner that does not jeopardize the health and safety of our communities and is based on consultation with existing Boards of Health and the municipalities that they represent.** We acknowledge that there is potential for administrative and program efficiencies by moving to 10 regional public health entities, however, we have concerns regarding the timing and method of implementation. We are seeking additional information as soon as possible to determine how to address proposed changes effectively and ensure continuity of services in our communities. Until we have details regarding the regional boundaries, service expectations, and funding, it is impossible for us to plan in a meaningful way. We urge you to engage in comprehensive consultation with public health to clarify plans and expectations. With this information, we will be able to work collaboratively and proactively to develop a vision for the future of public health.

**We are strongly recommending that the province postpone any changes to the funding formula, to ensure that public health services are not put at risk.** As municipal budgets have already been set for 2019, increasing tax levies to accommodate for retroactive and unexpected changes to the funding formula is not an option. We recommend that any changes to the cost sharing formula be postponed until after the regional model is in place, which will allow us to be proactive in identifying efficiencies and opportunities within the new structure. The stability and security of provincial funding is critical to ensure the health and safety of our communities is maintained while we adapt to any structural changes.

**We will adjust the way we deliver our programs and services to adapt to a new structure and funding model.** We are critically reviewing the way we deliver our programs and services

### North Hastings

1P Manor Ln., L1-024, P.O. Box 99, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0  
**T:** 613-332-4555 | **F:** 613-332-5418

### Prince Edward County

Suite 1, 35 Bridge St., Picton, ON K0K 2T0  
**T:** 613-476-7471 | **F:** 613-476-2919

### Quinte West

499 Dundas St. W., Trenton, ON K8V 6C4  
**T:** 613-394-4831 | **F:** 613-965-6535

to determine how we can adapt to a new model. We will work with the Ministry and our municipal partners to prioritize the delivery of core functions as changes in funding and structure are implemented. However, we need information as soon as possible regarding the new regional boundaries and the parameters that will guide decisions to grant exemptions to the provincial standards in order to proceed with planning.

**The work of Public Health continues to be essential to the long-term sustainability of the health care system, by protecting the health of the population and preventing disease and injury before it occurs.** The Hastings Prince Edward Board of Health looks forward to working with the Ministry to determine how we can effectively modernize public health in Ontario, while concurrently maintaining a strong investment in programs and services that will help reduce cost and strain on the health care system in the future.

Sincerely,



Jo-Anne Albert, Chair  
Hastings Prince Edward Board of Health  
Mayor, Municipality of Tweed,



Piotr Oglaza MD, CPHI (C), MPH, CCFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and CEO  
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health