



Hamilton

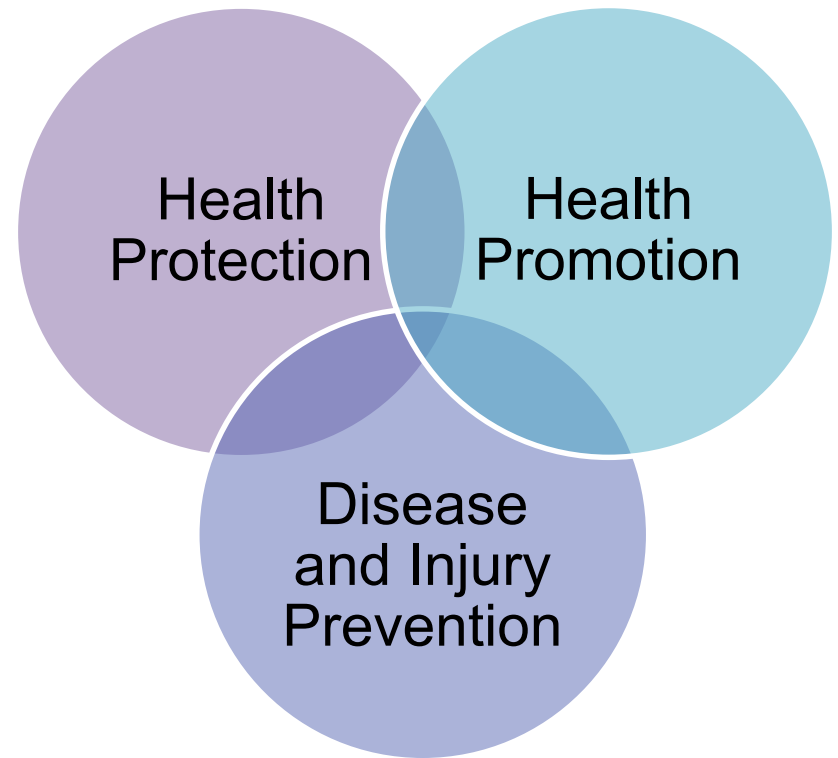
# Board of Health Orientation Governance & Accountability

November 28, 2022

# What is Public Health

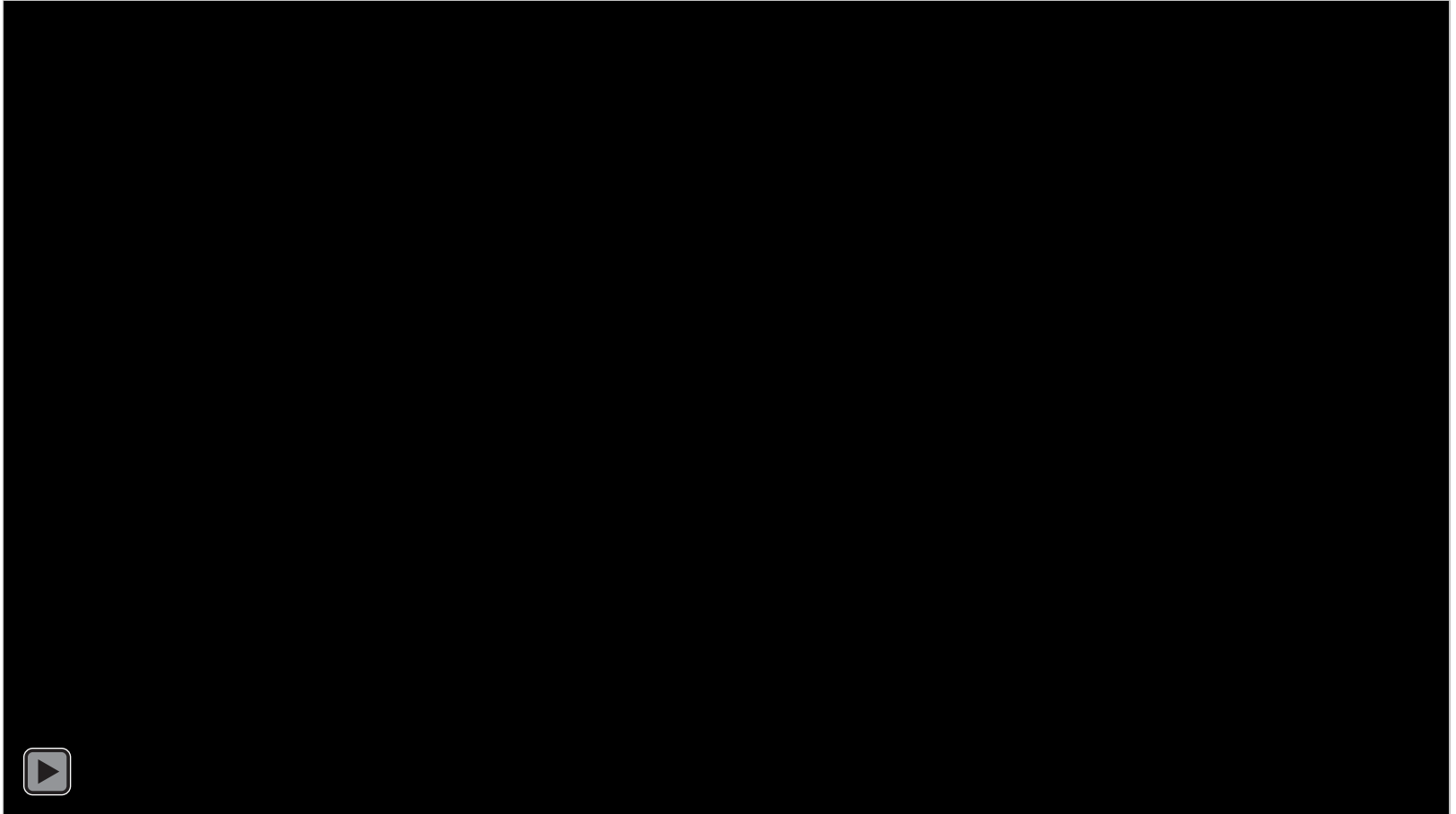
Public Health is the organized efforts of society to keep people healthy and prevent injury, illness and premature death.

John Last, A Dictionary of Epidemiology

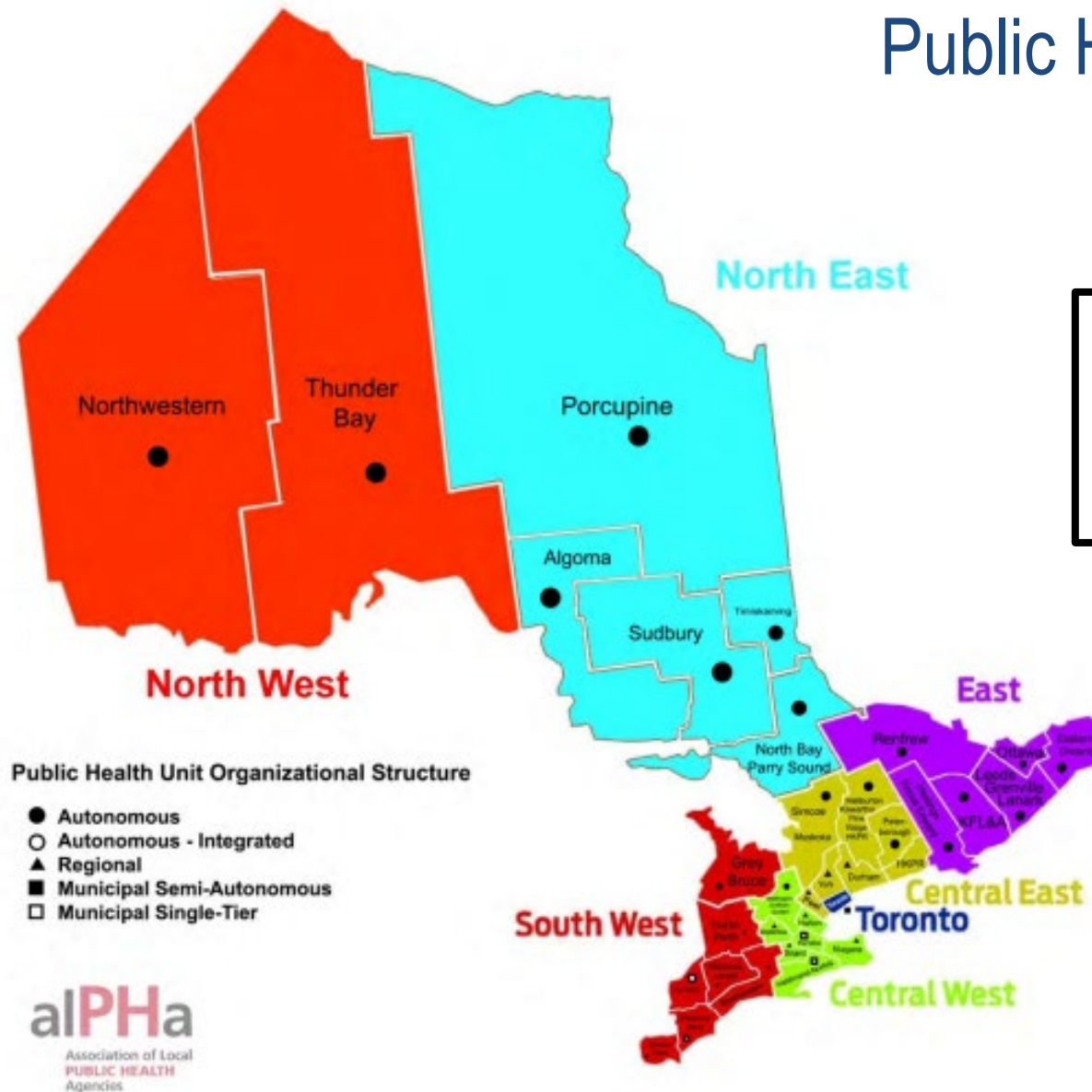


# Public Health Today

Focused on **upstream efforts** to promote health and prevent disease in order to improve the health of populations (video embedded below)



# Public Health in Ontario



34 local public health agencies



# Public Health in Ontario *cont'd...*

## Provincial Level

- Ministry of Health
- Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Ontario Health
- Public Health Ontario (arm's length)

## Funding

- Majority of programs are cost-shared; 70% province and 30% municipalities
- Remainder of programs are either 100% provincially funded or 100% municipally funded

# Legislation & Standards Governing Boards of Health

Health Protection & Promotion Act  
(HPPA)

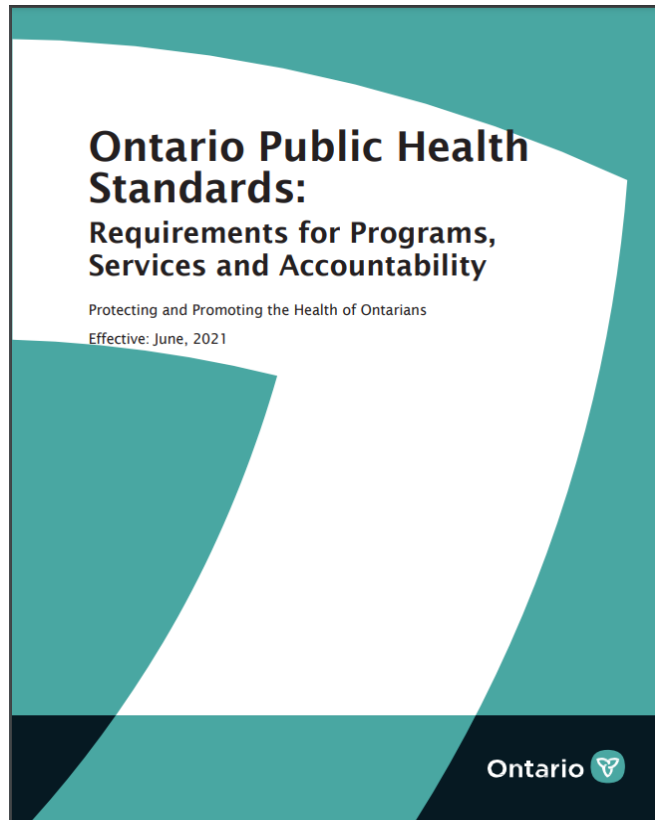
Ontario Public Health Standards  
(OPHS)

# Health Protection & Promotion Act

- Legal authority to establish boards of health
- Members of a board of health are in a position of trust and held to a high standard of conduct
- Responsibilities and authorities of the board of health as well as the powers of the Medical Officer of Health
- Boards of health required to comply with the Ontario Public Health Standards



# Ontario Public Health Standards



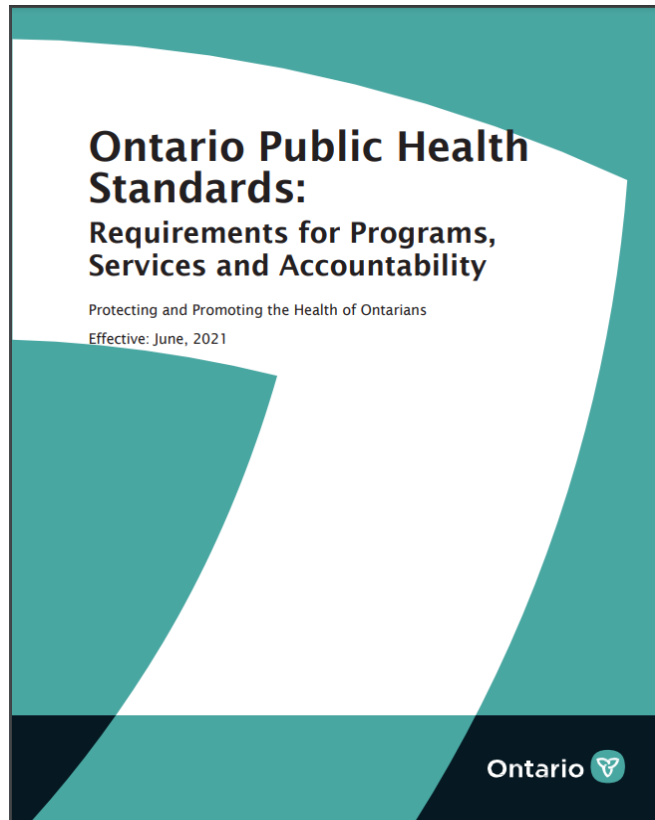
## Accountability Framework

- Delivery of Programs & Services
- Fiduciary Requirements
- Good Governance Practices
- Public Health Practice

## 4 Foundational Standards

1. Health Equity
2. Population Health Assessment
3. Effective Public Health Practice
4. Emergency Management

# Ontario Public Health Standards



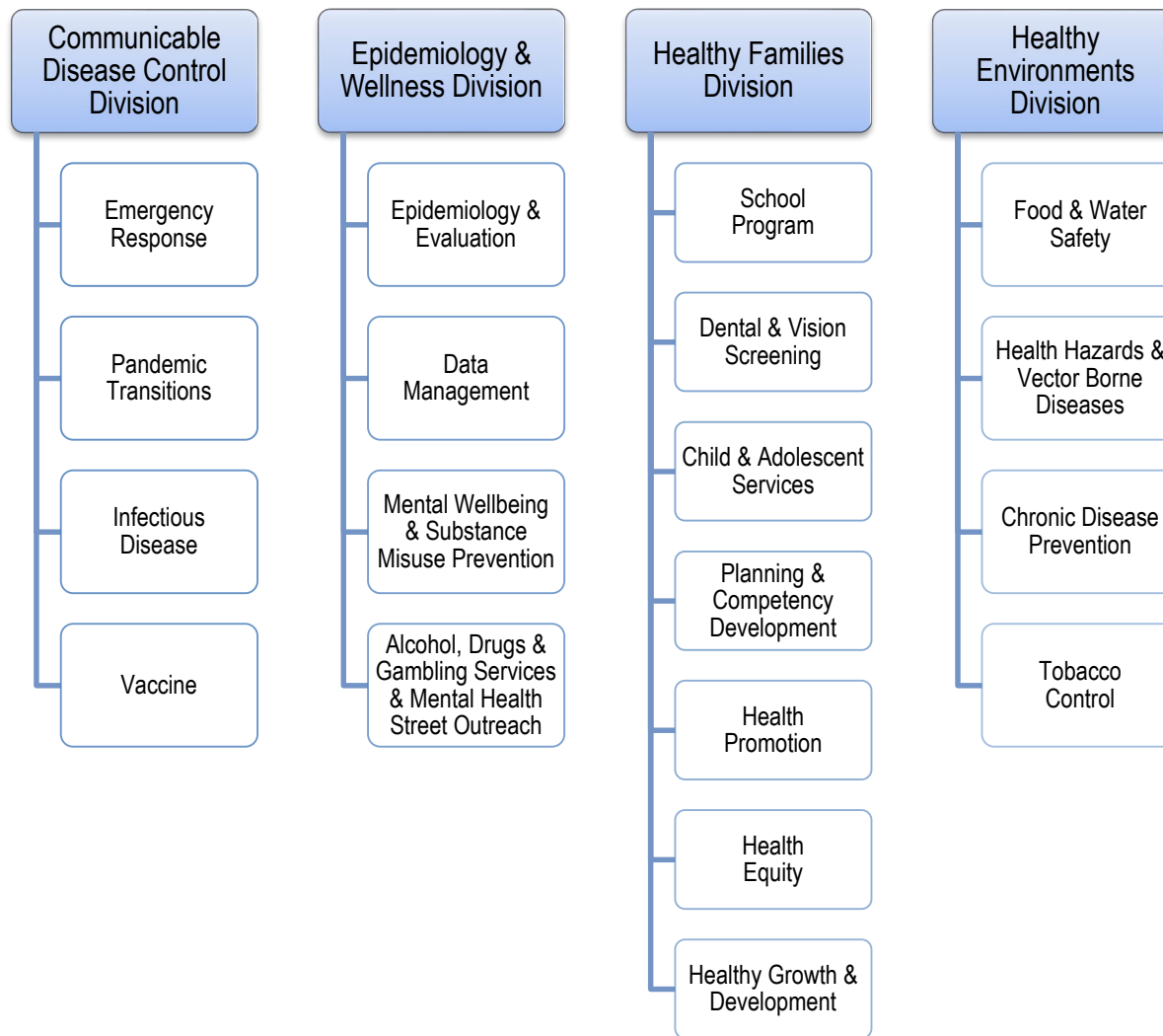
## 9 Program Standards

1. Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-Being
2. Food Safety
3. Healthy Environments
4. Healthy Growth & Development
5. Immunization
6. Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention & Control
7. Safe Water
8. School Health
9. Substance Use & Injury Prevention



## Office of the Medical Officer of Health

## Public Health Services – Organizational Chart

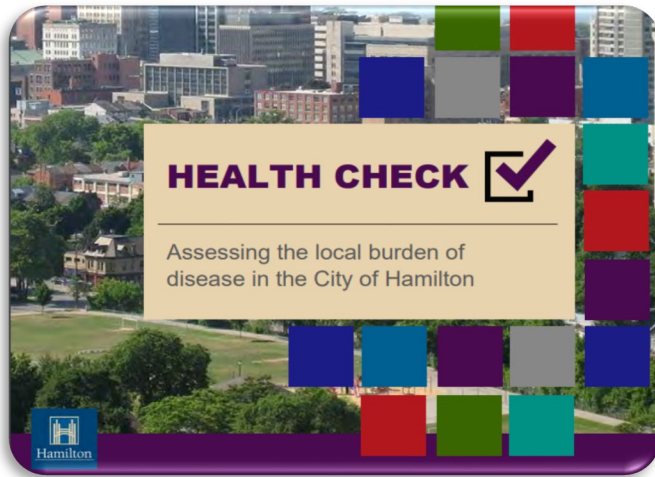


# Communicable Disease Control Division

- Reduce the burden of communicable and infectious diseases of public health significance
- Reduce the burden of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization
- Prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with public health impacts



# Epidemiology & Wellness Division



Provide data and business support to ensure programs are evidence-based and responsive to local needs.

Focus on mental well-being, substance use prevention, harm reduction initiatives and outreach services for vulnerable populations.



# Healthy Environments Division



Reduce the burden of chronic diseases of public health importance.

Promote the development of healthy built and natural environments and mitigate impacts of climate change.

Reduce exposure to health hazards and vector-borne diseases.



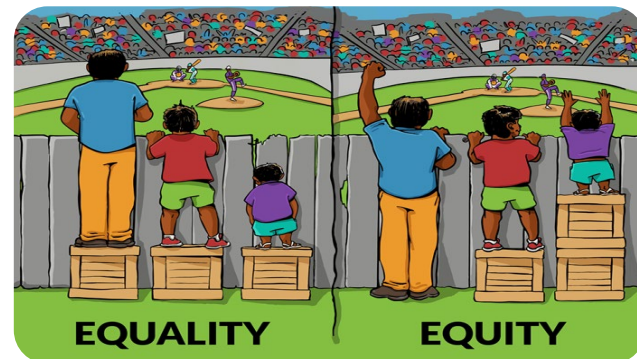
Prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne and water-borne illnesses.

# Healthy Families Division



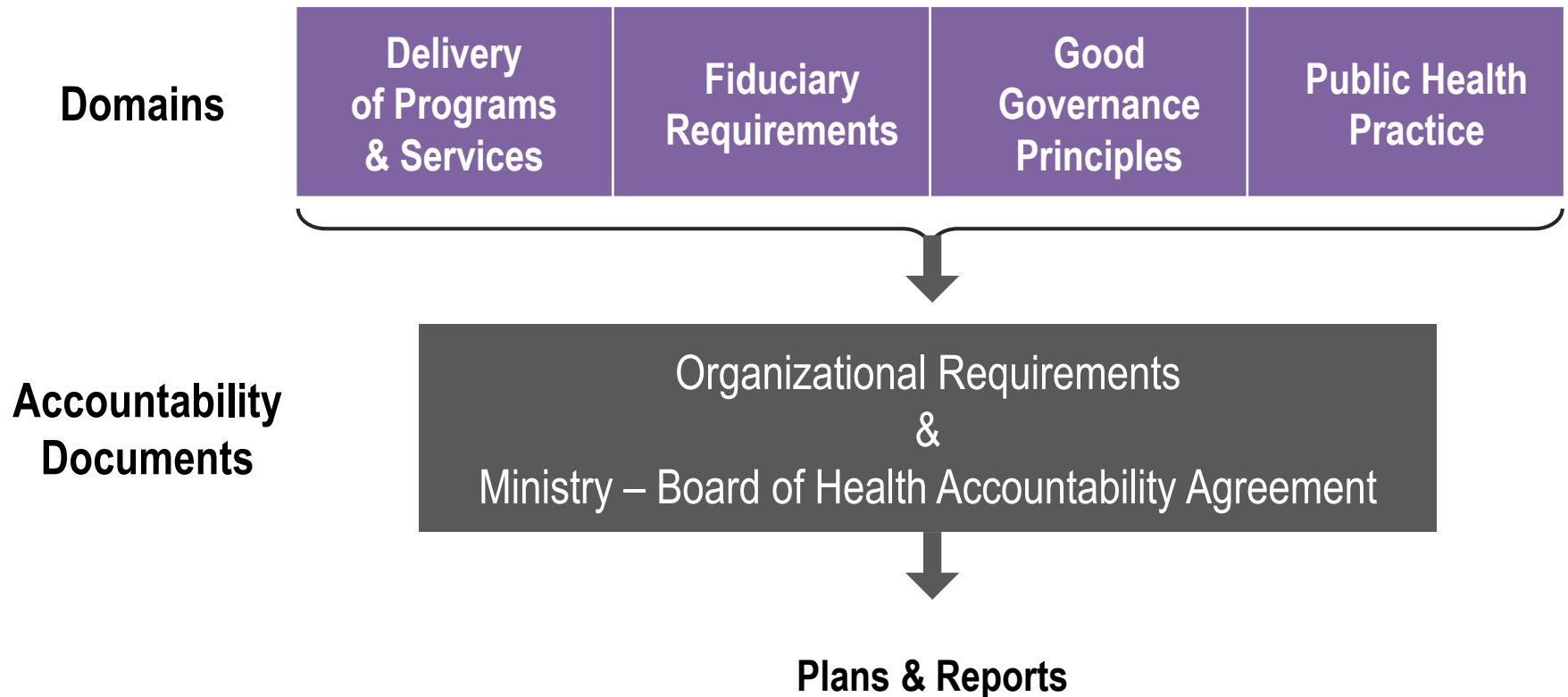
Support Hamiltonians in achieving optimal growth and development through preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health.

Support public health programs to meet the needs of priority populations and decrease inequities.





# Accountability Framework



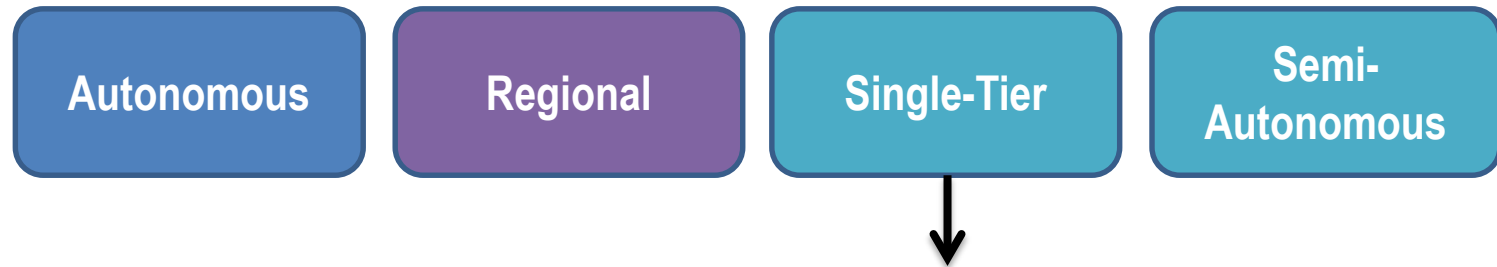
## Accountability Framework *Cont'd...*

### Plans & Reports

Report	Board of Health Date
2021 Annual Report & Attestation	January 16, 2023
2023 Annual Service Plan & Budget	February 13, 2023
2022 Annual Report & Attestation	April 2023 (placeholder)
2023 PHS Organizational Risk Management	April 2023
2022 Annual Report to the Public	May 1, 2023
Standards Activity (Performance) Reports	Due to the Ministry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Q2 – July 31, 2023</li><li>▪ Q4 – January 31, 2023</li></ul>

# Board of Health Structure

- Different board of health governance models across Ontario



As per the City of Hamilton Act:

- Hamilton City Council also serves as Board of Health (no citizen representatives or provincial appointees)
- Board of Health is a standing committee of Council
- A municipal Councillor on a board of health has two hats:
  - The **municipal politician** and
  - The **public health advocate**

# Board of Health Leadership

Board of Health	Strategic leadership is key to shaping public health programs and services relevant to the community
Medical Officer of Health	Responsible to Board of Health for management of public health programs and services, and reports on any issues
Councillors	Important public health champions on a day-to-day basis to support the community to be as healthy as possible

# Recent Board of Health Governance Discussions

March 2021

Delegations advocating for reform to Hamilton's current Board of Health to include health experts and diverse community leaders

June 2021

Overview of the history of Board of Health governance structure in Hamilton

September  
2021

Board of Health Governance Education Session

Board of Health Direction: Connect with Ottawa and Toronto Public Health to learn more about their semi-autonomous board structure

July 2022

Overview of the information shared by Toronto Public Health

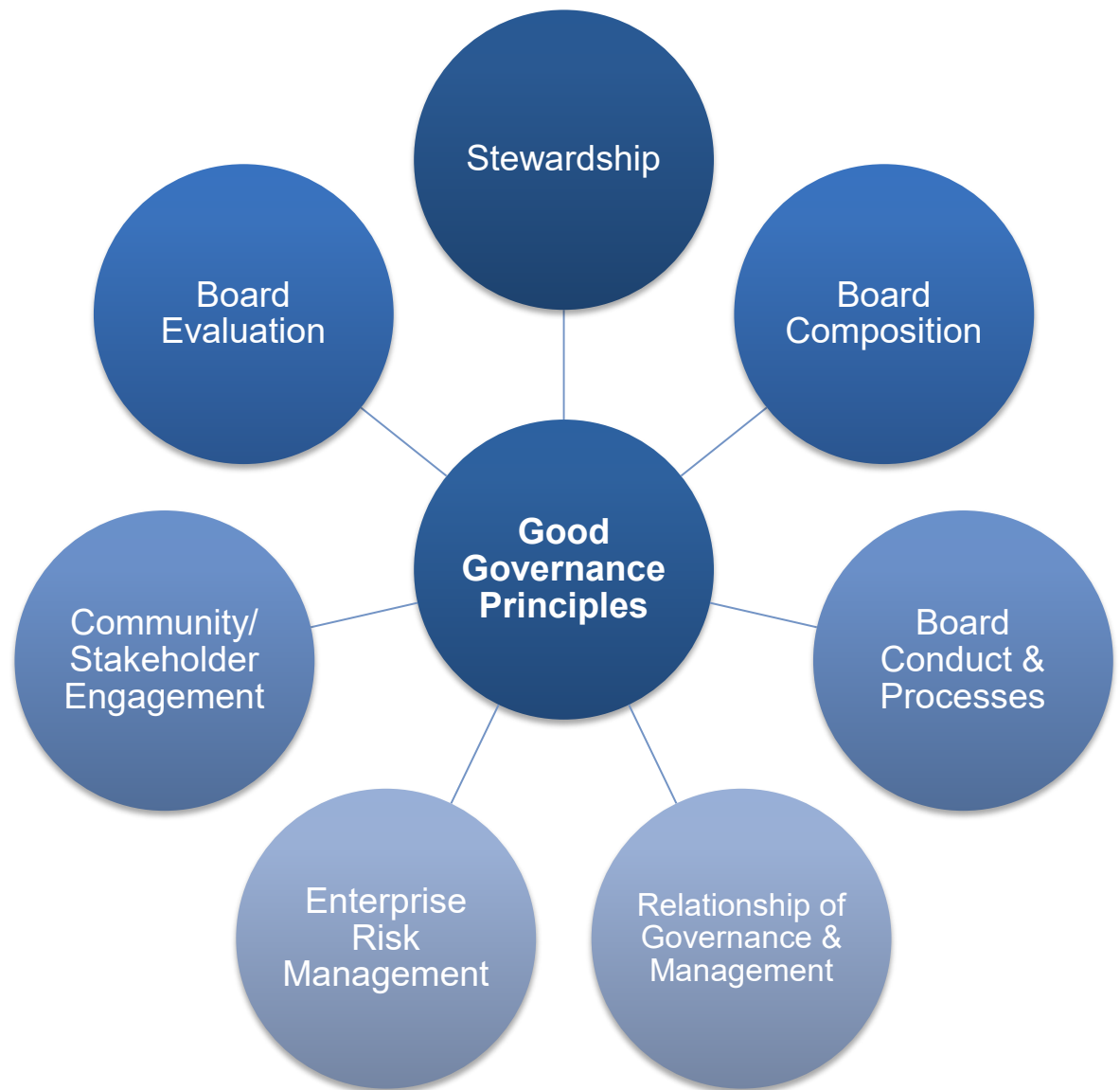
Board of Health Direction: Request information from Province about feasibility of including members of the public on Hamilton's Board of Health

Next Step

Staff to provide an overview at April 2023 Board of Health meeting and facilitate discussion regarding next steps



# Principles of Good Governance



From September 20, 2021 Board of Health Governance Education Session provided by Karima Kanani, Miller Thompson Lawyers:  
<https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=284425>

# Health System Transformation Context

- Health system undergoing significant change
  - Creation of Ontario Health
  - Subsumed a number of health agencies
- Ontario Health Teams introduced, including Greater Hamilton Health Network
- Ongoing provincial discussions for several years about how best to modernize/strengthen local public health
  - Told to expect further updates in Spring 2023

# Board of Health Orientation

## Next Steps

Date	Event
January 16, 2023 Board of Health Meeting	Presentation on Population Health, Health Equity and Public Health Priorities
February 13, 2023 Board of Health Meeting	Ontario Public Health Standards Annual Service Plan and Budget for 2023
April 3, 2023	Board of Health: Governance Update
Q1 2023 – Date To Be Determined	In-service with Council Admin Staff to review information and contacts in order to assist in meeting constituent needs

# How Can You Learn More?

## Additional Online Resources Available

- [Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aLPHa) [Board of Health Orientation Manual](#) and [other resources](#)
- Previous Board of Health Reports related to governance: [BOH21006](#); [BOH21006\(a\)](#); and [BOH21006\(b\)](#)