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**PLEASE ROUTE TO:
All Board of Health Members
All Members of Regional Health & Social Service Committees
All Senior Public Health Managers**

August 25, 2023



August 2023 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep alPha's members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPha activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

Leader to Leader - A Message from alPha's President - August 2023

leadership
 passion
 motivation
 dedication
 drive
 discipline
 heart
 excellence

As we reach the end of August, I hope that all have had the opportunity for some enjoyment and restoration, despite the environmental challenges that we have experienced around the world including in Ontario. The forest fires (and the resultant smoke exposure), tornadoes, heat events and flooding that have impacted across the country have sadly taken the lives of individuals and endangered entire communities. We face a challenging future with climate change impacts being more evident. This is yet another reason to have a strong local public health system.

and annual 1 per cent increases to base funding for local public health units in each of the next three years. In my letter of acknowledgement to the Minister, I indicated that while this may not be sufficient to completely meet our mandate, alPHa appreciates knowing what our thresholds will be when planning our budgets. I also noted the opportunity to work together with the province to address long-standing challenges in the system. The alPHa Board has been engaging with the province with messaging calling for ongoing, stable and sufficient funding, including during a meeting of the alPHa Executive with Minister Jones on July 26th. We understand that with this funding announcement comes the opportunity for the local public health community to identify changes that can be put in place to increase our capacity, effectiveness and efficiency. The alPHa Board will carefully consider the roles that alPHa may play in response to this opportunity.



The timing of this allows the alPHa Board to reflect on its implications for the renewal of alPHa's strategic plan, a work in progress through the remainder of 2023. It is also an opportunity that we need to reflect on in our engagements such as with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario (PHO), Ontario Health, AMO and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). In keeping with this, the alPHa Executive, as well as a number of other local public health leaders, attended the AMO Conference, raising the profile of local public health among the attendants and supporting Dr. Robert Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Durham Region in his address *Transforming Health In Ontario*. We also continue engaging with PHO in the development of their own renewed strategic plan.

In follow up to our excellent alPHa Conference in June, as alPHa President, I am proud to be the signatory for the [letters](#) in support for the resolutions approved by the membership. They cover a wide range of public health topics of fundamental importance and reflect the insights and the dedication of local public health leadership across the province.

broader health care system, we also prepare for the surge in respiratory viruses that will come later in the year. Thus, the response to daily population health needs continues while we also anticipate and prepare for the needs to come. In all of this, I am always grateful for the dedication and quality of leadership in local public health throughout the province, also of the alPHA Board and Executive, and the excellent work of our alPHA staff.

Charles Gardner
alPHA President

Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement



As noted above in the President's message, alPHA wrote to the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones, regarding the Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement made at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference on Tuesday, August 22. A link to alPHA's submission can be found [here](#) and a link to the Minister's remarks is available [here](#).

alPHA representatives, including those from the Boards of Health Section, the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, Affiliate organizations and alPHA staff, continue to work hard on your behalf to advocate for a strong, effective, and efficient local public health system in Ontario. Recent activities include actively participating on key tables, correspondence on important public health issues, recent meetings with the Premier and the Minister of Health, and ongoing dialogue and meetings with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and his staff.

alPHA is anticipating further dialogue and as updates are available, we will connect back with the membership.

Thank you to the alPHA members who attended the AMO Conference and helped to profile the *Public Health Matters* infographic - A Business Case for Local Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Partnering Communities in
Public Health Management
alPHa
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies
www.alphahamburg.org

A BUSINESS CASE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health champions health for all. Local public health agencies provide programs and services that promote well-being, prevent disease and injury, and protect population health. Our work, often done in collaboration with local partners and within the broader public health system, results in a healthier population and avoids drawing on costly and scarce health care resources.

OUR ASK

We are asking decision makers for their support for the goals and objectives of public health, with sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability for Ontario's locally-based network of public health agencies.

Local public health remains essential to the province's population health and the associated economic prosperity.

Local public health supports the Ontario government in its goals to be efficient, effective, and provide value for money.

INVESTMENT IN LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Investment in local public health includes the following returns:



REDUCED HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS:

Public health measures such as **vaccination, case and contact management, outbreak response, community infection control measures** reduced hospitalizations by 13 times during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local public health is also central to responding to new infectious disease risks such as MPOX, reemerging pathogens like polio, and tuberculosis, and the return of annual seasonal epidemics such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).



SAFE COMMUNITIES:

Local public health protects our communities by working with municipalities to provide **safe water, safe food, and emergency preparedness and response.**



HEALTHY CHILDREN:

Local public health protects children through **promotion of healthy growth and development, vaccination, dental screening, and school health.**



Population Health Assessment



Health Equity



Effective Public Health Practice



Emergency Management



Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being



Food Safety



Healthy Environments

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies



FUNDING

Local public health requires sufficient and sustainable base funding from the provincial government.

The end of mitigation funding (\$46.8M) from the province would equal a **14.76% (\$316.7M) municipal levy increase**, or a **3.78% (\$1.24B) loss** to the overall funding of local public health programs.

A return to the previous provincial-municipal cost-sharing formula for all programs and services would help to offset this loss.



COVID-19 RECOVERY

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, local public health has been working hard to put back in place its full range of programs, with progress being made on its recovery priorities (**Public Health Resilience**), and responding to seasonal respiratory viruses.

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADS TO HEALTH CARE SAVINGS



Health promotion and disease prevention are mandated roles for local public health agencies. In doing this, they also work with the Ministry of Health and key stakeholders in addressing chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

HEALTH INEQUITIES DUE TO SOCIOECONOMIC POSITION CONTRIBUTED \$60.7B = 15% OF ALL HEALTH CARE COSTS.

Smoking, alcohol, diet and physical activity improvements could prevent \$89B in health care costs = 22% of all health care costs over 10 years.



Alcohol use is another major contributor to health care and societal cost. It is estimated that alcohol use costs the Ontario economy \$5.3B in health care, law enforcement, corrections, prevention, lost productivity and premature mortality.



It is estimated that **diabetes** in Canada cost the health care system \$15.36 billion over a 10 year period, affecting nearly 10% of the population.



Promotion of **tobacco cessation and tobacco control** reduced health care costs by 1.7% overall = \$4.2B saved over 10 years.



Healthy Growth and Development



Immunization



Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control



Oral Health



Safe Water



School Health



Substance Use and Injury Prevention

alPHa would like to thank the many members who attended the AMO Conference, particularly from the Boards of Health Section. Thank you for highlighting key public health issues, the importance of local public health, and for using key alPHa resources, including this infographic, in your discussions and delegations with Ministers.

To view the infographic, click [here](#).

Save the date for the alPHa 2023 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops

Mark your calendars for November 22-24, as we prepare to host a remarkable event that will amplify the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system.

Join us for online plenary sessions with public health leaders in the morning, followed by BOH Section and COMOH Section meetings in the afternoon.

Attendees are invited, at no additional cost, to participate in workshops called: *Climate Change and Public Health*, *How to Use a Human Rights Based Framework in the Workplace*, and *the Importance of Risk Communication in a Changing World*.

This gathering provides a unique opportunity to connect with public health leaders from all corners of the province. Together, we will delve into shared obstacles and strengthen the future of public health. Expect to gain access to invaluable tools and

For further details, [check out our flyer](#) and stay tuned for updates!

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

2023 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings and Workshops

Hold the Date!

alPHA's Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and workshops will continue the important conversations on the critical role, value, and benefit of Ontario's local public health system.

On November 24th, participate in online plenary sessions with public health leaders in the morning, followed by BOH and COMOH Section meetings in the afternoon.

Attendees will also be invited, at no additional cost, to participate in pre-symposium workshops on November 22nd & 23rd:

- Climate Change and Public Health
- How to Use a Human Rights Based Framework in the Workplace
- Importance of Risk Communication in a Changing World

Registration will open in September (date TBD) and will cost \$399 plus HST.

Hosted by alPHA with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Please note that you must be an alPHA member to participate in the Pre-Symposium Workshops, Symposium or Section meetings.

RISK COMMUNICATION in a changing world

Half-day online workshop for scientists and public health professionals

Apply real-world principles when you talk about public health and environmental risks

Presented by **RONALD W. BRECHER**, Ph.D., DABT, CChem
Toxicology & Risk Assessment Specialist
rbrecher@rogers.com
riskpartners.ca

November 23, 2023
Virtual Workshop 1:00-4:00 pm

Part of the alPHA Fall Symposium

Stay tuned for more information
[alphaweb.org](#)

Presented by **TREVOR SMITH DIGGINS**
Risk Communication Specialist
trevor@smithdiggins.com
riskpartners.ca



Climate change is having serious impacts on health and health systems in Ontario. This summer alone, we've witnessed the severe consequences of climate change with wildfires, heat domes, and flooding sweeping across the country. Many health authorities are taking actions to prepare for climate change through health assessments, early warning systems, training and education of staff and public education and outreach.

In response to this critical issue, alpha is taking a proactive approach. We're excited to announce a special Climate Change Workshop at our upcoming 2023 Fall Symposium on November 22nd. We sincerely hope you will join us for this vital event.

We're continually striving to enhance our [Climate Change resource page](#). This page currently houses essential liaison reports and key resources. However, we believe that, together, we can make it even more comprehensive and valuable. We are asking members to contribute to this collective effort. If you have any climate change and health adaptation resources that you believe would be beneficial, please share them with us at gordon@alphaweb.org. Your input will help ensure that our resources remain up-to-date and relevant.

Lights, camera, action!



an opportunity to showcase recent videos from public health units from across the province.

Has your PHU posted a short public health video on your website or YouTube that you'd like to share with Symposium attendees? The Symposium is an excellent opportunity to showcase and share your communications work on key public health issues!

Here's how to submit:

- Send the title and link to your PHU's video(s) to info@alphaweb.org
- Send only the URL(s) and do not send any video files.
- YouTube videos are preferred.
- Clips can be live-action or animated.
- Video(s) should be short and can be no longer than five minutes in length.
- Clips should be recently recorded (2023)/stand the test of time from when the videos were recorded.
- Variety is welcomed as we'd like to cover a broad range of public health topics.
- Videos must be from your PHU and not from another organization.
- Maximum of three (3) videos can be submitted.

The deadline to submit information on your video clip is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 10th. We look forward to receiving your submissions!

Update on Resolution A23-06, Advocating for a National School Food Program in Canada

THE COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD

About Us Why It Matters Provincial/Territorial Action Take Action News

ENDORSERS

[Add your voice](#) to those who endorse our call for the development of a Universal, Cost-shared Healthy School Food Program for Canada!

We are seeking endorsers from government bodies, schools and non-profit organizations who prefer to endorse rather than become [members](#).

Individual supporters are encouraged to stay informed by signing up for [updates](#).

[Become an endorser](#)

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<p>Community Health Boards Gustafson, Antigonish, Brasel, Richmond</p> <p>Antigonish Town and County Co...</p> <p>PROVINCE</p> <p>Nova Scotia</p> <p>WEBSITE</p> <p>https://www.communityhealthboards.ns.ca/</p>	<p>AFV Association francophone de la Vallée</p> <p>Association francophone de la V...</p> <p>PROVINCE</p> <p>Nova Scotia</p> <p>WEBSITE</p> <p>www.afva.ca</p>	<p>alPHA Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies</p> <p>Association of Local Public Healt...</p> <p>PROVINCE</p> <p>Ontario</p> <p>WEBSITE</p> <p>www.alphaweb.org</p>	<p>BCCPAC</p> <p>BC Confederation of Parent Advi...</p> <p>PROVINCE</p> <p>British Columbia</p> <p>WEBSITE</p> <p>https://bccpac.bc.ca/</p>

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alPHA is pleased to announce that the process of endorsing the work on the Coalition for Healthy School Food has been completed. This was directed by the membership

endorser. We join other health units, networks, school districts, community health boards, schools, government agencies, cities, and indigenous and nonprofit organizations who have endorsed the Coalition.

Affiliates update

Affiliates

Association of Local Public
Health Agencies



Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
Diététistes en santé publique de l'Ontario

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)

ODPH's Food Insecurity Workgroup prepared a written submission for the Federal Government's Pre-Budget Consultation. The submission, with recommendations focused on the Canada Child Benefit, can be found [here](#).

BrokerLink Insurance: How to Save on Insurance



In partnership with alPha, [BrokerLink](#) is proud to offer exclusive discounts on personal home and auto insurance to members. If you're trying to save money in different areas of your budget, it's a good idea to look over your insurance policies. Check out BrokerLink's tips on how to save money on your insurance [here](#).



A resource [page](#) is available on alPha's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to orientation materials, best practices, by-laws, resolutions, and other resources. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library. Resources available on the alPha website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health](#) (Revised Feb. 2023)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018, \(PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023\)](#)
- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health](#) (Video, June 8, 2021)
- [Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001](#) (Revised 2021)
- [Governance Toolkit](#) (Revised 2022)
- [Risk Management for Health Units](#)
- [Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview](#) (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)
- [Ontario Boards of Health by Region](#)
- [List of Units sorted by Municipality](#)
- [List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit](#)
- [Map: Boards of Health Types](#)
- [NCCHPP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System](#) (2021)
- [The Municipal Role of Public Health\(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act](#)

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our NEW training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

BOH Governance training course

Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

Social Determinants of Health training course

Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

alPHA Correspondence



Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHA's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. Below are submissions that have been sent in since the last newsletter. A complete online library is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [alPHa Letter - Public Health Funding Announcement](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - A23-06 - National School Food](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - A23-05 - Food Affordability](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - A23-04- Underhousing](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - A23-03- Indoor Air Quality](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - A23-02 - Nicotine Strategy](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - Vaccine Expansion in Pharmacies](#)
 - [alPHa Letter - Minister/alPHa Leadership Meeting](#)
-

Public Health Ontario



COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Reports

- [COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)
- [Respiratory Virus Overview in Ontario](#)

Additional Resources – New

- [Environmental Scan: Heat Alert and Response Systems \(HARS\)](#)
- [Rapid Review: Interventions to Mitigate Heat-related Harms among Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Median influenza immunization coverage estimates among hospital and long-term care staff, 2022-23 influenza season, Ontario](#)
- [Updated Stimulant Harms Snapshot](#)
- [IPAC Construction, Renovation, Maintenance and Design form](#)
- [Interactive Opioid Tool Update](#)

Events

Interested in PHO's upcoming events? Checkout their [Events](#) page to stay up-to-date with all PHO events.

Missed an event? Check out their [Presentations](#) page for full recordings of their events.

Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

Data Land

School of Public Health

- [Full Moon Ceremony: Blue Moon](#) (Aug. 30)

RRFSS Update - Important RRFSS Membership information for 2024



The 2024 cost options for RRFSS 2024 membership are now available! And for the first time we are able to offer \$ savings with an early bird cost freeze for 2024 members — this means a freeze at 2023 costs for both ISR data collection contracts and RRFSS Coordination costs (currently set at \$7,000 annually).

Health units have told us that budget challenges are the #1 barrier to joining RRFSS. That is why RRFSS will be offering this “early bird” membership cost for 2024 membership at 2023 cost levels!

To get early bird cost savings, RRFSS Letters of Intent to participate in 2024 RRFSS must be submitted by Sept 15, 2023 using the 2023 cost options. Please note this deadline only applies for Letters of Intent, payments are flexible and can be arranged for a preferred time frame later in 2023 or in 2024.

After Sept 15, 2023, costs will increase and the 2024 cost options (5 per cent increase) will come into effect.

For further information please contact, Lynne Russell, RRFSS Coordinator:
lynnerussell@rrfss.ca

News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).

Our mailing address is:

|480 University Ave. Suite 300 Toronto, Ont. M5G 1V2|

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