

Association of Local Public Health Agencies



Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPha
Monday, January 13, 2025



Established in 1986,
the Association of Local Public Health Agencies
(ALPHA) is the not-for-profit organization that
provides leadership to Ontario's boards of health
and their local public health units.

**ALPHA is the Voice of Ontario's
Local Public Health System**

alPHa Sections and Affiliate Groups

Members: Ontario's local public health agencies

Member Representatives:

Boards of Health Section

Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section

Affiliates



alpha Board of Directors



alpha Meetings

- alpha holds an in-person conference and AGM in June of every year along with two symposiums in the fall and winter.
 - alpha Board of Directors meets 5 to 6 times per year.
 - alpha Executive Committee meets once a month.
 - BOH Section Executive, COMOH Section Executive and Affiliates Group meet bi-monthly.
 - Working Groups meet throughout the year.
- In addition, various key stakeholder meetings for a total of >100 meetings every year.

alPHa Staff Team



alpha - What We Do



Strategic Partnerships



Strategic Partnerships

Ministry of Health
Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Ontario
Ontario Health
alPHa Affiliate Organizations
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Medical Association
Other Public Health Associations
Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Key Resources for Members

Foundational Documents

- [alPHa By-law \(ONCA Compliance\)](#)
 - [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#)
 - [Annual Report](#)
 - [alPHa Resolutions](#)
- [BOH Shared Resources Page](#) including [BOH Orientation Manual](#) & [BOH Governance Toolkit](#)

alPHa Correspondence

[Correspondence Home Page](#)

Communications

- [Information Break](#)
- [X \(formerly Twitter\) @PHAgencies](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Ministry of Health

[Health Protection and Promotion Act](#) and [Ontario Public Health Standards](#)



Strategic Plan

2024 - 2027

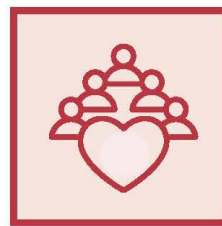
Convening the leadership of local public health agencies to:



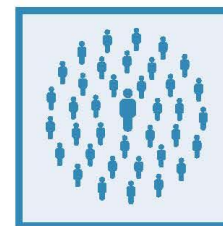
Be the unified voice and a trusted advisor on public health



Advance the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations



Support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system

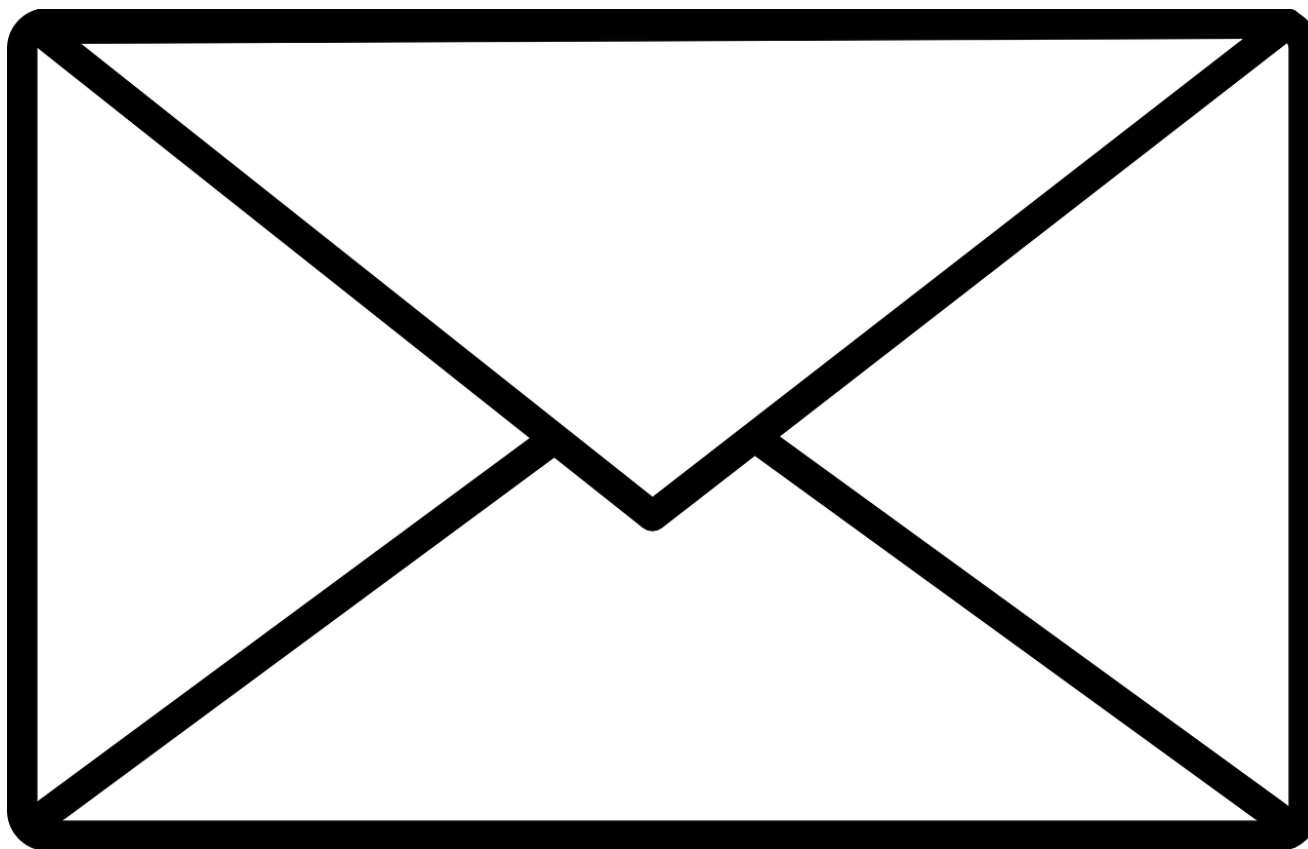


Deliver member services to local public health leaders

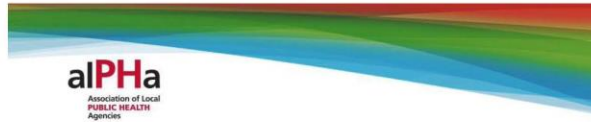


alPHa's Mission: Serving Ontario's local public health agencies for a strong public health system

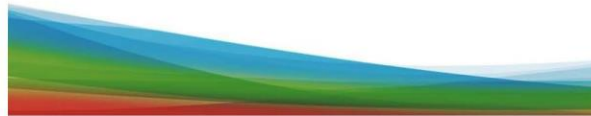
alPHa Correspondence



BOH Orientation Manual and BOH Governance Toolkit



2022
**ORIENTATION
MANUAL**
FOR
BOARDS OF HEALTH



Orientation Manual for Boards of Health
Revised: November 15, 2022
Prepared by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies
480 University Ave., Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1V2
416-595-0006
www.alphaweb.org
info@alphaweb.org



**BOH GOVERNANCE
TOOLKIT**

For Ontario Boards of Health



Updated: November 28, 2022

BOH Training Courses




BOH GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

<p>Enhance your understanding of public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards.</p>	<p>Discover the significance of Social Determinants of Health in public health and relating to municipal governments.</p>
<p>What you'll learn:</p>	<p>What you'll learn:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are Social Determinants of Health (SDOHs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Health Legislation in Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Health Legislation in Ontario
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ontario Public Health Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Context for SDOHs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ OPHS Accountability Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BOH Roles and Responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Different SDOH diagrams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BOH Structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Review of each SDOH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ministry of Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bringing it together
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Public Health Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Why are these important to public health?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ alPHA Leadership and Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Why are these important to municipal governments?

Information Break

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



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.

Boards of Health: Shared Resources



A resource [page](#) is available on alPha's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, resolutions, and other resources. **In particular, alPha is seeking resources to share regarding the province's Strengthening Public Health Initiative, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health.** If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, 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 Jan. 2024)
- [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](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Providing Leadership in
Public Health Management
alPHa
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies
www.alphaweb.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 poliomyelitis 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.**

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

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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.

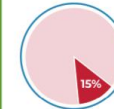
A return to the previous **provincial-municipal cost-sharing** formula for all programs and services would help to offset this loss.



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.



Population Health Assessment



Health Equity



Effective Public Health Practice



Emergency Management



Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being



Food Safety



Healthy Environments



Healthy Growth and Development



Immunization



Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control



Oral Health



Safe Water



School Health



Substance Use and Injury Prevention

www.alphaweb.org

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alPHa Resource Pages

Boards of Health Resources
Public Health Renewal
Climate Change
Workplace Health and Wellness
Artificial Intelligence
Risk Management

Member Benefit

BrokerLink
Insurance

Association of Local Public Health Agencies
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2024 Fall Symposium, Section Meetings and Workshops
Nov. 6-8, 2024

Save the Dates! alPHa Fall Symposium, November 6, 7, 8, 2024

alPHa 2024
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
FALL VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

EA Workshop - November 5, 2024

Latest News more

2024-09-16
alPHa InfoBreak, September 2024

2024-04-02
CMOH 2023 Annual Report Released

2024-03-27
alPHa Summary - Ontario Budget 2024

Meetings & Events more

2024-09-19
BOH Section Executive Committee – Special Meeting on Governance

2024-09-20
alPHa Board of Directors Meeting

2024-09-25
COMOH Section Meeting

2024-10-11
COMOH Executive Committee

2024-10-18
alPHa Executive Committee Meeting

Online Surveys

» Give Us Your Ideas!

See You February 12th to 14th!

Save the date

alPHa
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

**2025 alPHa Winter
Symposium**

Feb. 12-14

Continuing the important conversations on Ontario's local public health system's critical role, value, and benefit.

Questions

