



Board of Health Meeting February 22, 2024

Summary

2023 Year-in-Review

Management staff from each department presented a summary of the work completed by the Health Unit over the course of 2023.

Update from Tri-Board Merger Committee

The Tri-Board Merger Committee is continuing to meet to explore a potential merger with Hastings Prince Edward (HPE) Public Health and Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health. Meetings are going well and a feasibility plan will be presented to the Board of Health in March.

Ontario Public Health Standards Review

The Chief Medical Officer of Health is reviewing the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#) (OPHS). These are the foundational documents that outline what health units do and how they do it, ranging from restaurant inspections to school health to analysis of community health data.

This review will be conducted by the province, with extensive consultation with local health units. The province's goal is to "identify roles and responsibilities [of local public health units] that can be refined or stopped, and/or 're-leveled' to a regional or provincial level." The province will be carrying out this review over the course of 2024 and the plan is to implement any changes by early 2025.

Dr. Linna Li advised that in our work of exploring mergers, one of the guiding principles is that we would focus on retaining local public health services. The goal of the mergers is not to cut costs, and the province has said that they would not reduce the provincial grant to health units as a result of a merger. However, we may see a change or shift in services provided by local public health units as a result of the changes in the Ontario Public Health Standards.