



Board of Health Meeting June 20, 2024

Summary

Private Well Water Testing

After reviewing correspondence received from municipalities in the region regarding the Auditor General's Report recommending that Public Health Ontario Labs wind down their private well water testing, the Board of Health passed a motion to write a letter of support for continued free private drinking water testing for residents.

Free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including in the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark region and the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in bacterial testing of private well water, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. The Board of Health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit request that the Province of Ontario continue to offer free bacterial testing for private drinking water, whether through Public Health Ontario or some other means.

Strengthening Public Health

Chair Peter McKenna gave an update on the ongoing South East Transition Team Meetings advising that work is progressing well. The Medical Officers of Health and Executive Teams for LGL, HPE and KFL&A continue to meet to prepare for the transition and integration of operational elements for the new organization.

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Review

The province is making changes to the Ontario Public Health Standards, which are the foundational provincial documents that lay out the mandate of local health units. The goal of this review is to refine, refocus and re-level roles and responsibilities for health units and the province plans to have the new OPHS documents in place by January 2025. A survey has been circulated to health units in order to provide feedback on this review.

Update on Health Unit Strategic Plan

We continue to use our strategic plan in the planning and big-picture directions of our organization. The Management Team and Senior Leadership Team have met to identify concrete objectives and to incorporate them into the organization-wide work plan for this year.