



**Board of Health Briefing Note
April 19, 2018
Governance and Quality Assurance Committee Report**

1. Board Budget for Continuing Education

At the present time, the 2018 Board budget includes \$3,000 for attendance at conferences and meetings for continuing education. In 2017, only one Board member attended a one day ALPHA meeting in November with \$624 being used from the budget. Given this, the budget was kept at the same amount for 2018.

The situation has now changed. In 2018, two Board members attended a one day ALPHA meeting in February for a total cost of \$1,252 being used from the budget. If the budget stays the same, there will only be \$1,748 left for the remaining two ALPHA meetings in 2018 – a two day meeting in June and a one day meeting in November. The costs per person are about \$625 for one day and \$900 for two days, so, at most, the current budget would allow only one Board member to attend the June meeting and one to attend the November meeting.

The 2018 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability require that Board members participate in continuing education opportunities and the ALPHA meetings are specifically designed for Board members to meet their education needs. Our Board members have reported that these meetings are very helpful to them in their Board role.

An increase in the amount of the Board meeting and conference budget line from \$3,000 to \$5,000 will allow up to two Board members to attend the remaining two meetings in 2018. This is a small increase and can be absorbed in the 2018 Operating Budget.

Recommendation:

- That the Board increase the amount in the Board meeting and conference budget line from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

2. May Board Meeting

One of the Board's major initiatives is to develop the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. As part of this process, the Governance and Quality Assurance Committee is recommending that a meeting be held in May to review the mission, vision and values of the current plan, and to review the population health data for Leeds, Grenville and Lanark.

ALPHA has issued a challenge to all Boards to participate in 30 minutes of physical activity during May. The Governance and Quality Assurance Committee is recommending this initiative and recommends that Board members meet at 4 p.m. on May 17 and take a walk on nearby paths to show that the Board supports the importance of physical activity to promote health and prevent health problems.

Recommendation:

- That the Board meet in May 2018 to review the current mission, vision and values, discuss population health data related to the Strategic Plan, and participate in the ALPHA Activity Challenge.

3. LGL Indigenous Population

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has prepared a document "Guidance on Traditional Land Acknowledgment Statements".

“ This resource was developed by AMO’s recently created Indigenous Relations Task Force. Members have requested supports on creating a traditional land acknowledgement statement for their municipal government. The intention of this resource is therefore to provide guidance to interested municipal governments on how to draft a statement for their jurisdictions.”

“Traditional land acknowledgement statements are increasingly being used in Canada by governments, schools, post-secondary institutions, non-government organizations and other civil institutions as a practice of reconciliation aimed at recognizing the traditional or treaty territories of Indigenous peoples.

The 2018 Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability states:

“Relationships between boards of health and Indigenous communities and organizations need to come from a place of trust, mutual respect, understanding and reciprocity.”

According to the 2016 census, about 6000 residents self-identify as being First Nations, Metis and Inuit, in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark. They live throughout the region. Indigenous people were instrumental in helping the early settlers adjust to their new life.

Several Boards of Health across the province include a Traditional Land Acknowledgment Statement at the start of Board meetings as a recognition of mutual respect. The Governance and Quality Assurance Committee reviewed all of the suggestions included in the AMO paper and recommended that the statement used by the Government of Ontario be used at our Board meetings.

Recommendation:

- That the Board use the following land acknowledgement at the start of each Board meeting:

Brockville and Smiths Falls (when using videoconferencing) is/are located on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples dating back countless generations. We would like to show our respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treaty making in what is now Ontario. Hundreds of years after the first treaties were signed, they are still relevant today.