

**Correspondence
January 25, 2024
Board of Health Meeting**

Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention

Correspondence dated January 8, 2024 from Stacy Wight, Board of Health Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, and the Honourable Michael Tibollo regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health endorsing Public Health Sudbury and District's motion regarding "Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention".

Correspondence dated January 5, 2024 from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health, for Peterborough Public Health addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones and the Honourable Michael Tibollo urging the Provincial Government to ensure local Public Health Units are supported to invest in coordinated action to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases, substance use and injuries and increase health equity. This includes both maintaining the current breadth and scope of health promotion work outlined by the Ontario Public Health Standards and a continued investment of a skilled and diversified public health workforce. They also respectfully requested that the Chief Medical Officer of Health ensure proactive engagement in the sector-driven review of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Correspondence dated December 4, 2023 from Bernie MacLellan, Chair, Huron Perth Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford regarding a motion passed strongly encouraging sustainable and ongoing funding for local public health promotion.

The Huron Perth Public Health Board of Health supports Health Promotion Ontario's recommendation to strongly invest in local health promotion delivered by Ontario public health units by maintaining the current breadth and scope of health promotion work outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards, and encourages the Province to ensure that health promotion is prioritized on an ongoing basis in the review of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Intimate Partner Violence and Public Health Action

Correspondence dated December 13, 2023 from Rick Champagne, Chairperson, Board of Health and Carol Zimbalatti, Medical Officer of Health/CEO for North Bay Perry Sound District Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones and Michael Parsa, regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health urging the Provincial Government to invest in surveillance and data-informed strategies at a provincial and local level that will help to monitor trends, prevent and reduce intimate partner violence; reduce adverse childhood experiences; and, increase resilience and protective factors to decrease the likelihood of future risk, such as becoming a victim, or perpetrator of violence.

Support for a Funded Healthy School Food Program in Budget 2024 (Federal)

Correspondence dated December 4, 2023 from Bernie MacLellan, Chair, Huron Perth Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, the Honourable Jenna Sudds, the Honourable Lawrence MacAuley and the Honourable Jean-Yves Ducloux, in support of the following recommendations proposed by the Canadian Coalition for Healthy School Food:

1. Allocate \$1 billion over five years in Budget 2024 to establish a National School Nutritious Meal Program as a key element of the evolving Food Policy for Canada, with \$200 million per year to contribute to provinces, territories and First Nation, Metis, and Inuit partners to fund their school food programs.
2. Enter into immediate discussions with Indigenous leaders to negotiate agreements for the creation and/or enhancement of permanent independent distinctions based First Nations, Metis, and Inuit school meal programs.
3. Create a dedicated school food infrastructure fund to provide schools with facilities and equipment for food production and preparation, so they can reliably and efficiently serve nutritious food in adequate volumes.

Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023

Correspondence dated December 4, 2023 from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Sylvia Jones regarding the implementation of Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023.

The Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health considered and endorsed correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and would be happy to work with the government in supporting the changes proposed within Bill 103 as part of their efforts to reduce the burden of harmful substance use.

Bill 103, if passed would result in reducing the availability of vape devices and restrict vaping product advertising that has resulted in an increase in nicotine addiction and increasing present and future stress on the healthcare system.

Modernizing Alcohol Marketplace and Product Sales

Correspondence dated December 1, 2023 from Rick Champagne, Chairperson, Board of Health for North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones and the Honourable Michael Parsa regarding concern about alcohol policy in Ontario and the impact of increased access.

A motion was passed by the Board of Health calling on the Province of Ontario to implement the following measures:

- Reduce retail density
- Maintain or decrease hours of sale, with no exceptions
- Strengthen Ontario's alcohol pricing policies including taxation, minimum pricing or other means
- Stop further privatization of alcohol sales
- Apply a whole of government, health-in-all-policies approach to alcohol modernization

The Board of Health respectfully urges the Provincial Government to implement policy measures that reduce access to alcohol and help to prevent negative health outcomes and healthcare costs associated with alcohol use.

Correspondence also received from Peterborough Public Health regarding alcohol marketplace and product sales.

Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023

Correspondence dated November 29, 2023 from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health, for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford endorsing correspondence received from Huron Perth Public Health regarding the implementation of Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023.

Wearing a life jacket is the most important preventative measure individuals across the lifespan can take to prevent a drowning incident. Not wearing lifejackets has been, and continues to be, identified as the most common risk factor in drowning deaths beyond childhood.

I trust you will consider our efforts, along with Huron Perth and the advocacy of others, who continue to voice their support for the passing and implementation of this important legislation.