

**Correspondence  
August 29, 2024  
Board of Health Meeting**

Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”

Correspondence dated July 24, 2024 from Matt Newton-Reid, Chair, Middlesex-London Board of Health, addressed to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, the Honourable Mark Holland, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, the Honourable Andrew Sheer, Alain Therrien, Peter Julian and the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance regarding support for Bills S-233 and C-223. The Middlesex-London Board of Health supports a guaranteed livable basic income as a policy option for reducing poverty, income insecurity, and food insecurity and for providing opportunities for people with lower incomes. As such, they urge support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”, currently being considered by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and in the process of the second reading in the House of Commons. Upstream income-based solutions, such as a guaranteed livable basic income, are needed to address poverty, income insecurity, and household food insecurity and their significant impacts on health and well-being.

Continued Support for Infectious Disease Wastewater Surveillance and Modern Case and Contact Management Software

Correspondence dated July 24, 2024 from Joanne King, Chair, Board of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones and the Honourable Andrea Khanjin regarding continued support for infectious disease wastewater surveillance and modern case and contact management software.

On June 25, 2024, the Board of Health for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit passed a resolution to request continued provincial funding and support for important public health enhancements achieved during the pandemic: cross-provincial infectious diseases wastewater surveillance and modernized case and contact management software (CCM). In April and May of 2024, the province announced discontinuation of funding for both initiatives and public health units must revert back to using an older software platform for case and contact management with less functionality. Public health units have also been advised that CCM will eventually be superseded by a more all-encompassing, modern provincial platform. However, public health work would be more efficient and effective if the existing improvements were maintained until the full vision for Ontario’s public health information technology infrastructure is realized. A robust infectious disease wastewater surveillance system and highly functional case and contact management software are key enhancements from the COVID-19 pandemic that should be sustained so that we are more prepared for the next pandemic.

Correspondence dated June 20, 2024 from Councillor Joy Lachica, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health (PPH), addressed to the Honourable Sylvia Jones and the Honourable Andrea Khanjin regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health requesting continued provincial coordination and support for wastewater surveillance across broad communities including the Peterborough Public Health region.

On May 30, 2024 PPH learned that the Provincial government will discontinue funding for wastewater surveillance throughout the province, including the local partnership with Trent University as of July 31<sup>st</sup> (early end to their current contract) despite continued relevance and importance of this information to residents of

our region. The Public Health field has come to understand the broad utility of wastewater surveillance, not only for COVID-19 but for other infectious disease threats. In recent months it has proven useful for RSV, Influenza, MPox and Polio. Termination of this program will be a great loss of local infrastructure and capacity to support wastewater surveillance, in particular with the introduction of new infectious disease threats and preparedness for pandemics in the future. Your support of continued wastewater surveillance as an early warning system would benefit all local residents and maintain world class status in disease surveillance.

#### Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach

Correspondence dated July 8, 2024 from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, addressed to Dr. Kieran Moore, advising that the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorses the *Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach* as an exemplary guide for public health professionals to work collaboratively and efficiently within a multi-sector, community-based partnership to address physical literacy. This document provides ways in which public health can work with other sectors (e.g., education, sport, and recreation) toward building a physically literate community.

#### Public Health Networking Call

A municipal public health networking call took place on June 14, 2024 with Peter McKenna, Board Chair and Dr. Linna Li, Medical Officer of Health/CEO in attendance. Zahra Yousuf, Health Promotion Consultant and Kim McCann, Population Health Manager gave an Air Quality Alerts and Response presentation and answered questions from municipalities. The next public health networking call is scheduled for September.