

**Correspondence
March 28, 2024
Board of Health Meeting**

Kingston Public Health Ontario Laboratory Closure

Correspondence dated March 1, 2024 from Wess Garrod, KFL&A Board of Health Chair, addressed to Dr. Michael Sherar, President and Chief Executive Officer for Public Health Ontario, regarding a motion passed by the KFL&A Board of Health strongly opposing the closure of the local Public Health Ontario Laboratory in Kingston. Copies of the correspondence were also forwarded to the Honourable Sylvia Jones and Dr. Kieran Moore.

Local access to laboratory services is fundamental to promoting public health and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. The Public Health Ontario Laboratory site has played a crucial role in efforts to maintain a healthy population, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of the local laboratory in Kingston fosters innovation, research and education through key partnerships with KFL&A Public Health and other local public health agencies in the region, post-secondary institutions and other community partners like long-term care homes.

Considering the critical role that the Public Health Ontario Laboratory plays in safeguarding public health, the Board of Health respectfully urges reconsideration of the decision to close this essential facility. Collaborative efforts should be explored to address any challenges faced by the lab, ensuring its continued operation and the preservation of accessible diagnostic services for the community.

Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence

Correspondence dated February 21, 2024 from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health, for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts declaring gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic.

For many, this is often interconnected with broader societal and systemic issues, including poverty, discrimination, lack of access to resources, inadequate support systems, and a legacy of colonialism. The Board of Health urges the provincial government to allocate the necessary resources, funding, and policy frameworks to reinforce health and social services.

LGL Municipal Public Health Networking Call

A municipal public health networking call was conducted on February 23, 2024 with Chair Peter McKenna in attendance. Dr. Linna Li emphasized the importance of the work of the municipal public health team in the community and how their work relates to the work of municipalities. Part of the work that municipal public health nurses do is to provide support, feedback, and considerations to the municipalities as it relates to public health in their communities. A presentation was made by Joanne Desormeaux, Kathryn Allwright-Casseldean, and Kimberley Marshall outlining the Municipal Public Health Nurse role. The next municipal networking call will take place on Friday, March 15, 2024.