

**Correspondence
May 23, 2024
Board of Health Meeting**

2023 Chief Medical Officer of Health Annual Report

Correspondence dated May 6, 2024 from David Marshall, Chair, Board of Health for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford and the Honourable Sylvia Jones regarding the Board of Health's review of the CMOH's Annual Report, "Balancing Act: An All-of-Society Approach to Substance Use and Harms." The Board extends their gratitude to CMOH Dr. Kieran Moore for shedding light on the pressing and intricate issue of substance use and associated harms and commends the report's comprehensive examination of all substances, its emphasis on the social determinants of health, acknowledgement of Indigenous perspectives and focus on upstream approaches. The Board of Health pledges their commitment to embracing the inclusive all-society approach and fostering continued collaboration with community partners and reviewing, endorsing, and implementing the recommendations delineated in the report.

Correspondence dated April 23, 2024 from Councillor Joy Lachica, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to Dr. Kieran Moore and the Honourable Sylvia Jones regarding the CMOH's Annual Report, advising that Peterborough Public Health appreciates this timely and insightful report, and stands ready locally to support its implementation and collaborate across the province to ensure advocacy advances its recommendations provincially.

Proposed Phase-Out of Private Well Water Testing

Correspondence dated May 1, 2024 from Leslie Drynan, Administrator (CAO)/Clerk for the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley, addressed to the Honourable Sylvia Jones and Michael Sherar, President and CEO of Public Health Ontario regarding equal access to clean and safe drinking water.

Of concern is the 2023 Auditor General Report "Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario" dated December 2023, which provides a recommendation that Public Health Ontario in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, update and implement a plan to streamline public health laboratory operations, including the gradual discontinuation of private drinking water testing and the closure of various laboratories.

For our residents, and many others in the province who rely on private wells as their water sources, phasing out the testing program through a transition to privatization and reduction of lab capacity could potentially mean the end of access and free testing for private well water.

At the April 29, 2024 Council meeting the following resolution was adopted:

THAT, the Council of the Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley support a proactive approach to Public Health Ontario's (POH) Joint Modernization Plan with the Ministry of Health (MOH) by providing the province with feedback regarding the importance of the current private well water testing program and the potential numerous negative consequences of a program phase-out for our rural community;

AND THAT, the Township respectfully request that if there is any further consideration of implementing the Auditor General's recommendations, that community and public health engagement be considered a top priority in the process;

AND THAT, a copy of this report and feedback correspondence be forwarded to MPP Steve Clark, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Board of Health and all local municipalities in UCLG.

Recommendation for Restrictions on Nicotine Pouches

Correspondence dated April 30, 2024 from Councillor Joy Lachica, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Mark Holland regarding federal restrictions on nicotine pouches. Peterborough Public Health supports the implementation of federal regulations to target the marketing and sale of nicotine purchased and other nicotine-containing products and request:

- That the federal government takes swift action to close the regulatory gap that currently permits the sale of nicotine pouches and other nicotine-containing products to individuals under 18 years of age; and,
- That the federal government requests provinces align their applicable legislation with said federal restriction.

Closing this regulatory gap is necessary to safeguard public health and must be urgently addressed. Immediate federal action to restrict the sale of those items would provide the time necessary for the province of Ontario to embed restrictions within the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, while protecting the communities we serve in the meantime.

Correspondence dated April 25, 2024 from Wess Garrod, KFL&A Board of Health Chair, addressed to the Honourable Sylvia Jones regarding a motion passed by the Board at its April 24, 2024 meeting:

THAT the KFL&A Board of Health endorse the recommendations proposed by the Canadian Cancer Society for immediate action by the Provincial Government of Ontario to restrict the sale of nicotine pouches to behind the counter in Ontario pharmacies, and to urge the Government of Canada to expedite their proposed regulatory response to nicotine pouches announced on March 20, 2024.

Correspondence dated April 22, 2024 from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford and the Honourable Mark Holland regarding recommendations for government regulation of nicotine pouches. The Board of Health urges Health Canada to strengthen regulations to restrict the sale of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring that nicotine availability to children and youth never occur again; and encourage the Government of Ontario to exclusively sell nicotine pouches behind pharmacy counters; and that the Government of Ontario expand the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from Matthew Newton-Reid, Board Chair, Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health and Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer for the Middlesex-London Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Mark Holland regarding provincial and federal restrictions on nicotine pouches. The Ontario's Southwest Tobacco Control Area Network, recommends that the federal government takes swift action to close the regulatory gap that permits the sale of nicotine pouches and other nicotine-containing products that have not yet been proven effective as cessation aids to individuals under 18 years of age; and, that the provincial government consider taking action to embed restrictions on the flavouring, sale, display, and promotion of nicotine purchased and other nicotine-containing products under the Smoke-free Ontario Act, 2017.

Endorsement of Public Health Sudbury & Districts Letter on Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Correspondence dated April 12, 2024 from Stacy Wight, Board of Health Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health calling on the provincial government to declare gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic.

Private Member's Bill C-322 – National Framework for a School Food Program Act

Correspondence dated March 21, 2024 from David Marshall, Board of Health Chair for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU), addressed to Philip Lawrence, MP Northumberland-Peterborough South and Jamie Schmale, MP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock in support of a universal, non-stigmatizing national school food policy and program for all public schools.

The Board of Health for the HKPRDHU looks forward to continued engagement on this critical issue for children and youth and encourage the passing of Bill C-322 as soon as possible.

Re-appointment of Toni Surko

An Order in Council was received on March 21, 2024 reappointing Toni Surko as a part-time member of the Board of Health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit to serve at the pleasure of the Lieutenant Governor in Council for a period not exceeding three years, effective May 28, 2024.