

**Correspondence
February 22, 2024
Board of Health Meeting**

Legislated Improvements to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

Correspondence dated January 31, 2024 from Councillor Joy Lachica, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, the Honourable Paul Calandra, the Honourable Mark Holland and the Honourable Sean Fraser advising that among the most important interventions to prevent COVID-19 is improving the indoor air quality (IAQ) of the air that we breathe. In May 2023, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) released a new standard that now operationalizes the improvements. Canada uses ASHRAE to inform its current building code development, and so this new standard should be integrated as soon as possible in Canada to improve health and save lives. ASHRAE Standard 241 specifically addresses improved IAQ as it relates to respiratory viruses, a component currently missing from provincial and federal building codes and regulations. ASHRAE Standard 241 and improved indoor air quality should be adopted into federal and provincial building codes and highly considered for inclusion in local property standards by-laws to ensure improvements in the air we breathe and our health.

Intimate Partner Violence and Public Health Action

Correspondence dated January 31, 2024 from Councillor Joy Lachica, Chair, Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, and the Honourable Michael Parsa regarding Peterborough Public Health Board of Health's endorsement of correspondence from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit. This correspondence outlines the need to advance local and provincial action on monitoring, preventing and reducing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), and adverse events experienced by children with violence or abuse within the family unit. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual and/or emotional harm toward a current or former intimate partner. Exposure to IPV is associated with negative impacts to social functioning, mental health and physical health.

Household Food Insecurity

Correspondence dated January 24, 2024 from Penny Sutcliffe, MOH/CEO for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford regarding a motion passed by the Board of Health for Sudbury & Districts calling on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward.

In the context of the Public Health Strengthening roles and responsibilities deliberations, the Board of Health urges all health system partners to remain committed to population health assessment and surveillance as it relates to monitoring food environments and, specifically, to monitoring food affordability; and share this motion broadly with local and provincial stakeholders.

Correspondence dated January 22, 2024 from Bernie MacLellan, Chair, Board of Health for Huron Perth Public Health, addressed to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau and the Honourable Sean Fraser urging all levels of government, including the Government of Canada to increase the urgency of the work to address the housing crisis, including increasing affordable housing and rental stock. Strategies that free up or increase income are essential to reduce the burden of household food insecurity.

Further correspondence regarding household food insecurity was sent from Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, the Honourable Michael Parsa and the Honourable Paul Calandra.

Call for Federal Government to Take Immediate Action on Nicotine Pouches

Correspondence dated January 23, 2024 from Bernie MacLellan, Chair, Board of Health and Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron Perth Public Health, addressed to the Honourable Mark Holland regarding a motion passed by the Huron Perth Public Health Board of Health supporting calls to action made by a group of health organizations which urges the Health Ministers to:

- Reclassify nicotine pouches as a prescription product, or to suspend the sale of nicotine pouches until the regulatory gap is closed, both of which are approaches that could be done quickly and administratively without the need for regulatory amendment; and
- Establish a temporary moratorium on approval of any more nicotine pouch products, or any new category of nicotine products, under the Natural Health Product Regulations, until the regulatory gap is closed, unless the products are sold on a prescription basis.

In addition, the HPPH BOH reinforces alpha's call to action made in August 2023 to develop a comprehensive federal smoking, vaping and nicotine strategy to reach a target of less than 5% commercial tobacco use by 2035 with respect to all nicotine delivery products.

LGL Municipal Public Health Networking Call

A municipal public health networking call was conducted on January 19, 2024 with Chair Peter McKenna in attendance. A presentation was made by Kim McCann, Community Health Protection Manager, on climate change and health. Two ways to improve the impact of climate change are mitigation and adaptation. Tools and resources for municipalities were discussed. The next municipal networking call will take place on Friday, February 23, 2024.