

## Tri-Board Merger Committee Meeting Summary

1. The committee met on February 1, 2024 at LGLDHU in Brockville.
2. Consultants from Sense and Nous attended the meeting and outlined their approach and scope of work:
  - The consultants will conduct a merger feasibility study that will outline resources needed and important considerations in undertaking a merger, according to the following organizational functions:
    - Governance and Legal
    - Finance
    - Human Resources
    - Programs and Communications
    - Infrastructure
  - The consultants will submit a report that will include projected merger costs. They will not provide a recommendation on whether a merger should be undertaken, as this decision is up to each Board of Health. Should each of the three Boards of Health pass a motion committing to the next steps in the merger process, a business case will be developed using the template from the province.
  - In this feasibility assessment phase, consultation will take place with Board Chairs, MOHs and leadership teams. External engagement would include engagement with Indigenous communities and with municipalities.
  - Broader consultation will take place after the business case is developed, including consultation with partners and with communities.
3. The committee discussed the importance of meeting local needs and that service delivery is top of mind in the new structure.
4. Councillor Nathan Townend circulated an updated governance structure for review by the committee. Members agreed in principle to a proposed structure with further exploration taking place with stakeholders. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
5. The province has indicated that they intend to propose in 2025 a review of the approach to public health funding and the proportion of municipal funding. Current municipal contributions were reviewed and their impact on the funding of the future merged public health entity.
6. Dr. Moore and his team have offered to meet with health units considering mergers. Committee members embraced this offer and KFL&A will take the lead on arranging this meeting.
7. The data collection tool developed by Kelly Pender was discussed. Looking at best practices among the three health units was encouraged, along with the importance of good communication throughout the merger exploration.
8. Committee members discussed names for the new public health entity and will circulate a survey to the three Boards of Health for their input.