



Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report

Board Meeting September 19, 2019

Organization Update

The Ministry of Health has notified us that the provincial grant will be the same as in 2018, with the addition of funding for the Seniors Dental Program. One time grants have been provided to purchase 2 new vaccine fridges, fund a student public health inspector practicum, and additional funding for the needle exchange program.

Some organizational structure changes have been made between the two program departments to maximize the use of existing managers after the retirement of one of the previous managers. This aligns like-programs together for improved effectiveness and efficiency. The reorganization will also set us up well for the move to a Regional Public Health Entity, in whatever form that will take.

Work is underway to develop the 2020 Public Health Budget which will be brought to the Finance, Audit, Property and Risk Management Committee for their review prior to the November Board meeting.

The Health Unit is developing a strategy to connect with the Indigenous Peoples living in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark to learn how we can participate with them in promoting health and preventing health problems. This is an important way for the Health Unit to be involved in the Truth and Reconciliation process that recognizes that colonialization has severely impacted Indigenous Peoples all across Canada over time.

Program Update

The Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, in partnership with active school travel stakeholders, was successful in receiving \$60,000 over one year from Green Communities Canada. The objectives of the "North Grenville Way" project are to raise awareness for active school travel, develop an active school travel community charter, and conduct a professional assessment of walk zones in hopes of increasing opportunities for sustainable active school travel.

Work is progressing well with the three Community Health Centres – Lanark, Rideau Health Services and Portland – to identify locations for the provision of dental services for low income seniors in our region. A launch is planned for October when we expect the provincial application process will be in place.

The student immunization record review and suspension process will begin earlier this year to align the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. First notices will be sent out on October 18th for our CDSBEO, private and French Board families and November 18th for UCDSB families.

Planning is underway for the 2019-20 Influenza season with our health care providers, hospital, and long-term care and retirement home partners. The flu vaccine supply will be a little later than in previous years. We hope to have vaccine out to our local health care providers by early October for their high risk individuals. The general population supply will be readily available by early November.

All children in senior kindergarten will be assessed for any vision problems in the 2019-2020 school year. Health Unit Staff will provide 3 screening tests done at every school, which takes about 10 minutes per child. Each child will get a results letter with next steps to be taken depending on the screening outcome. Free annual eye exams are available for children and youth up to 19 years of age with a valid OHIP card by an Optometrist.

The Health Unit has entered into partnership with the Municipality of North Grenville to provide well water sample bottle pick up and drop off at their municipal office as of August 6th. This improves access to well water testing which ideally occurs three times a year.

Over the spring and summer, the Health Unit has collaborated, as an Allied Partner, with the health care provider groups in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark who submitted proposals to the Ministry of Health to become an Ontario Health Team. Each one has been approved to move to the Development Stage with further work to be done by December to move to the next phase. We are bringing a population health perspective to the discussion along with a focus on health equity, prevention and health promotion.