



SUMMARY

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Municipal - Public Health Networking Call Friday, January 19, 2024

Recording: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/XAUHW0DaZK9_vFHpyg7M-LZmUJ3QnbbUZ_PJewKVg7A82oLnxcD7XCn7nZQqOJQf.V7Ak1hpdCjKnQnvg

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Topic(s) of Discussion

- 1.0 **Welcome/Introductions** – Peter McKenna, Municipal Counsellor in Smiths Falls & Chair of the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Public Health Unit
- Welcome greetings extended and introductions made.
- Municipalities:**
- Richard Grant, Junior Planner Town of Smiths Falls
 - Kurt Greaves, CAO County of Lanark
 - Lindsey Veltkamp, Director of Administration Town of Prescott
 - Adrian Wynands, Deputy Mayor of Augusta Township & President of the Grenville Federation of Agriculture, also worked on the Food Bank project with Peter McKenna
 - Christa Lowry, Mayor of Mississippi Mills
- ConnectWell / Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit:**
- Emily Frizell, Manager at ConnectWell Community Health
 - Linna Li, Medical Officer of Health & CEO
 - Rebecca Kavanagh, Director of the Population Health Department
 - Danielle Shewfelt, Public Health Nurse for the north area of Lanark County & Team Lead for Municipal Team, Population Health Department
 - Kim McCann, former portfolio was as Senior Public Health Inspector for Healthy Environments/Health Hazards/Emergency Response; with Teresa Clow's retirement now the Manager of Community Health Protection Division in the Population Health Department
 - Elaine Murkin, Manager of Healthy People Vibrant Communities Division in the Population Health Department
 - Susan Merritt, Management Assistant in the Population Health Department
- 2.0 **2024 Municipal Network Calls - Linna**
- One of the points that will be discussed after the presentation are these Municipal-Public Health Networking calls and how we hold them, timelines, topics, functionality, etc. and what would work best for the people who are part of these calls over the course of 2024.

3.0 **Topic: Climate Change and Health (*Presentation will be posted on our website*)** – Kim McCann, Community Health Protection Manager

Climate change and the impact on the health of our citizens:

- In 2021 the Ministry of Health came out with the Healthy Environments guidelines that included climate change which falls under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), specifically under the healthy environments protocol.
- Climate change and health also links to several different programs that we work on throughout the Health Unit – particularly Vectorborne diseases, those more vulnerable to chronic diseases and respiratory problems, the under-housed and isolated; affects water and food supplies locally in our region, etc. When we pull all of these issues together there is an impact on mental health as well.
- Peer reviewed scientific studies show that 99% of climate change has been caused by human activities. While some climate change is natural, current climate change is mainly caused by greenhouse gases (GHG) released into the atmosphere.
- Two ways to improve the impact of climate change:
 - Mitigation – actions to help reduce new greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
 - Adaptation – actions to help us manage and reduce negative impacts now and into the future
- Visit our website and please reach out to our Healthy Environments team of Public Health Nurses and Public Health Inspectors.
- Some Tools and Resources for Municipalities:
 - Create a Climate Action Plan for example [Lanark County Climate Action Plan](#)
 - Consider **HIRA** – hazard identification and risk assessment (tool to assess risk based on potential consequences and frequencies)
 - [Ontario Emergency Management Program Resources](#)
 - Contact your [Municipal Public Health Nurse Liaison](#) at municipalreferral@healthunit.org to consult on climate change planning and build healthy communities.
 - Health Unit website: <https://healthunit.org/?s=climate+change>
 - [Municipal Staff & Partners Health Unit website](#)
 - [Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program \(2017-2022\)](#)
 - [Small and Rural Communities Climate Action Guidebook](#)
 - [Tool: Greenhouse gas emissions reduction maturity scale](#)
 - [Guide for Municipal Climate Change Staff](#)
 - Some individuals are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the mitigation efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Consider how to integrate plans that will support those who may be more vulnerable. Use this resource to help: [Integrating equity, diversity and inclusion into municipal climate action](#)

3.1 Questions/Answers

Q: Town of Smiths Falls: For Emergency Planning – what can we do to mitigate those factors and how do we begin the process?

A: Start with your HIRA (hazard identification and risk assessment) and use the climate change lens – refer to Fire Chief Rick Chesebrough's current HIRA and issues that affected you; than refer back to the Health Unit website (*links above*).

Q: Does the Health Unit track how many hits on the website?

A: Yes, the Health Unit tracks how many hits we get on our website. Our web team also work on keeping our dashboard up-to-date. People can also sign up to receive updates to certain pages on our website.

4.0 **Continuation of Municipal – Public Health Calls – Linna**

- Two lines of questions:
 1. The practicality of these meetings – should they be once a month, does the time work, does the format work?
 2. How we approach these meetings – meant to be casual. Essentially the topics we have chosen have either specific resources or comments on the part of the Health Unit for municipalities. Are they overly general, too specific, is it too much time on the presentation and too little time on the discussions?
- Comments:
 - General consensus is that the format works; with the group expressing appreciation for these meetings, the informative presentations as well as the connection with being able to see the people we work with.
 - Friday meetings does not work with one participant.
 - Find presentation helpful, to know who is doing what.
 - Short conversation is helpful.
 - Interest expressed in the population health piece and climate change.
 - Link climate change to economics - saving money a triple win.
 - Find it valuable – good angle to try and tackle climate change looking through the lens of public health.
 - Danielle would like to attend council meetings to help further those connections.
- Perhaps best approach is essentially half information, half community of practice. Linna expressed thanks and appreciation seeing everyone and hearing the tone of the conversation - helps to see where to take the work for some of our teams.
- Peter McKenna added that this forum might work going forward on how best to speak to the merger - one of the obligations is to consult with municipalities. The window is short; this could be one of the tools we can use in the short term to bounce ideas and get peoples thoughts.

5.0 **Next Call:** Moved to Friday, February 23rd at 10:00 am.