



AGENDA
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
June 7, 2023 9:30 am
Council Chambers, Wyoming

Page

1. **Roll Call**

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

3. **Disclosures of Pecuniary of Interest**

If any.

4. **IN-CAMERA SESSION - 9:15 A.M.**

Recommendation

That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) to review the Committee A.M. (Closed Session) minutes dated May 17, 2023, pertaining to a) an identifiable individual, b) the potential disposition of lands in the City of Sarnia, c) the potential acquisition of lands (and/or lease) in the City of Sarnia, and any position to be taken in the negotiations thereof, pursuant to ss. 239(2) (b), (c) and (k) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

5. **OPEN SESSION**

Regular Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

6. **Silent Reflection**

7. Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

If any.

8. DELEGATIONS

- 7 - 19
- a) Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) would like to discuss the 2023 WOWC priorities.
 - b) Marilyn Gifford would like to speak to County Council to create public awareness that we have an abundance of doctors seeking residency programs and that more residency programs are needed to solve this doctor shortage.

9. Minutes of Council (Open Session)

- 20 - 28
- a) Reading and adoption of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated May 3, 2023.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

**A) Correspondence to Receive and File
Recommendation**

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- 29 - 30
- a) CC 06-02-23 A resolution dated May 15, 2023 from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry regarding Bill 23. (see attached for full motion)

RESOLUTION NO 2023-98
MOVED BY Councillor Williams
SECONDED BY Councillor Lang

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry urges the province to:

- pause proposed changes to the PPS, particularly regarding natural heritage (section 4.1) and agricultural lands (sections 2.6 and 4.3)
- reinvest trust in the local planning authority of all 444 municipalities, recognizing that each Ontario municipality has unique landscapes, different housing needs and differing visions for local planning matters

AND THAT our fellow municipalities be urged to voice their concerns regarding the proposed undermining of local planning authority;

Agenda: Lambton County Council (OPEN SESSION) - June 7, 2023

correspondence from the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH) urging the Ontario government to adopt income-based solutions that effectively reduce Household Food Insecurity in Ontario.

- 47 - 49 d) CC 06-06-23 A letter from Andrea Horwath, Mayor, City of Hamilton, dated May 11, 2023, regarding the passing of a motion declaring an emergency of Homelessness, Mental health, and Opioid Overdoses/Poisoning and requesting that the Provincial government act on the eight measures proposed by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.
- 50 - 51 e) CC 06-07-23 A letter from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, dated May 16, 2023, supporting Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023. Public Health will continue to strongly advocate for the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal flotation device or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment.
- 52 - 53 f) CC 06-08-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health, Peterborough Public Health, dated May 17, 2023, expressing support for the initiative for universal, no-cost coverage for all prescription contraceptive options for all Ontarians.
- 54 - 55 g) CC 06-12-23 A letter from Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health, Peterborough Public Health Unit dated May 19, 2023, regarding significant financial concerns and longstanding challenges with the sustainability of public health funding on Ontario, affecting the ability to deliver critical public health services. Peterborough Public Health is seeking the provincial government's support and investment to ensure a strengthened and resilient public health system without creating undue strain on local funders.

B) Information Reports

- 56 - 61 a) Information Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives - Update.
- 62 - 69 b) Information Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Vector-Borne Disease Program Update.
- 70 - 72 c) Information Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Oral Health and Vision Screening Program Update.
- 73 - 75 d) Information Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Health Protection - 2023 First Quarter Activity Report.

12. Information Reports

A) SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

76 - 78

- a) Information Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Housing and Homelessness Hub.

13. Items Not Requiring a Motion

79 - 83

- a) Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee minutes dated February 28, 2023

14. Reports Requiring a Motion

A) FINANCE , FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

84 - 85

- a) Report dated June 7, 2023 Regarding Deputy Treasurer Appointment.

15. Committee Minutes

86 - 89

- a) Committee A.M. minutes dated May 15, 2023.

90 - 92

- b) Committee P.M. minutes dated May 15, 2023.

16. Items Tabled from Previous Meetings

None at this time.

17. Notice of Motion

- a) Councillor Boushy gave Notice of Motion dated May 29, 2023 for the June 7, 2023 Lambton County Council meeting about the following: given that our two-county council committees are half of council we should consider joining together with council and meet once a month as a whole county council, on a trial basis.

Joining as one county council will:

1. Save council time.
2. Save staff reports and staff time.

18. Other Business

19. Notice of By-Laws

- a) #20 of 2023 A By-Law to Authorize Long-Term Financing for Capital Projects to Not Exceed \$8,500,000.
- b) #21 of 2023 A By-Law Appointing a Deputy Treasurer for The Corporation of the County of Lambton.

- c) #22 of 2023 A By-Law to Amend By-Law No. 7 of 2023 to Increase the Building Services Department's Chargeable Rate.
- d) #23 of 2023 A By-Law of The Corporation of the County of Lambton to confirm the resolutions and motions of Lambton County Council which were adopted up to and including June 7th, 2023.

20. First and Second Reading of By-Laws

- a) #20 - #23 of 2023.

21. Third and Final Reading of By-Laws

- a) #20 - #23 of 2023.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation

That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting of County Council be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 with the In-Camera Session to commence at 9:00 a.m.

23. O Canada!

24. NOTE

- a) A host is needed for the annual Council steak bbq held in September.



WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS

Lambton County Council Delegation
June 7, 2023

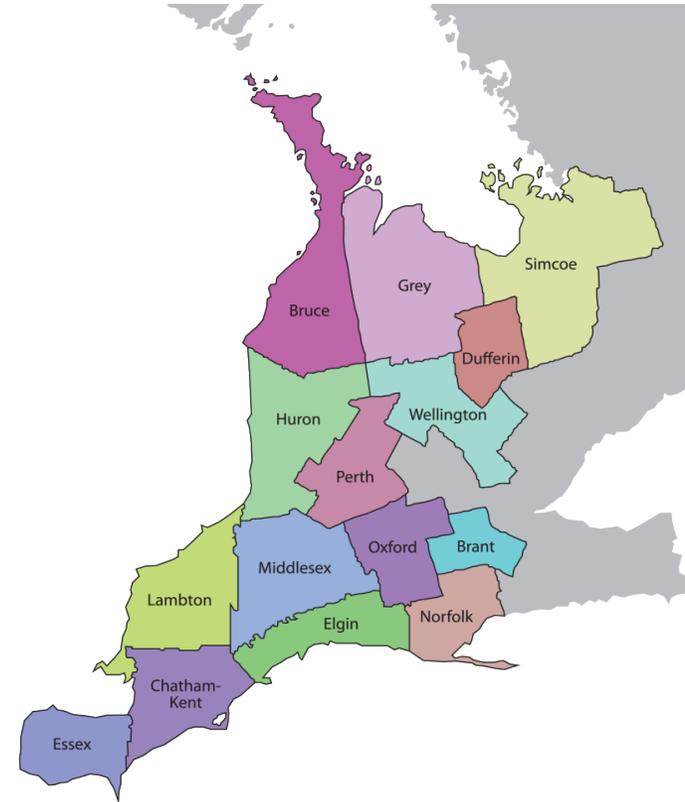


AGENDA ITEM #a)

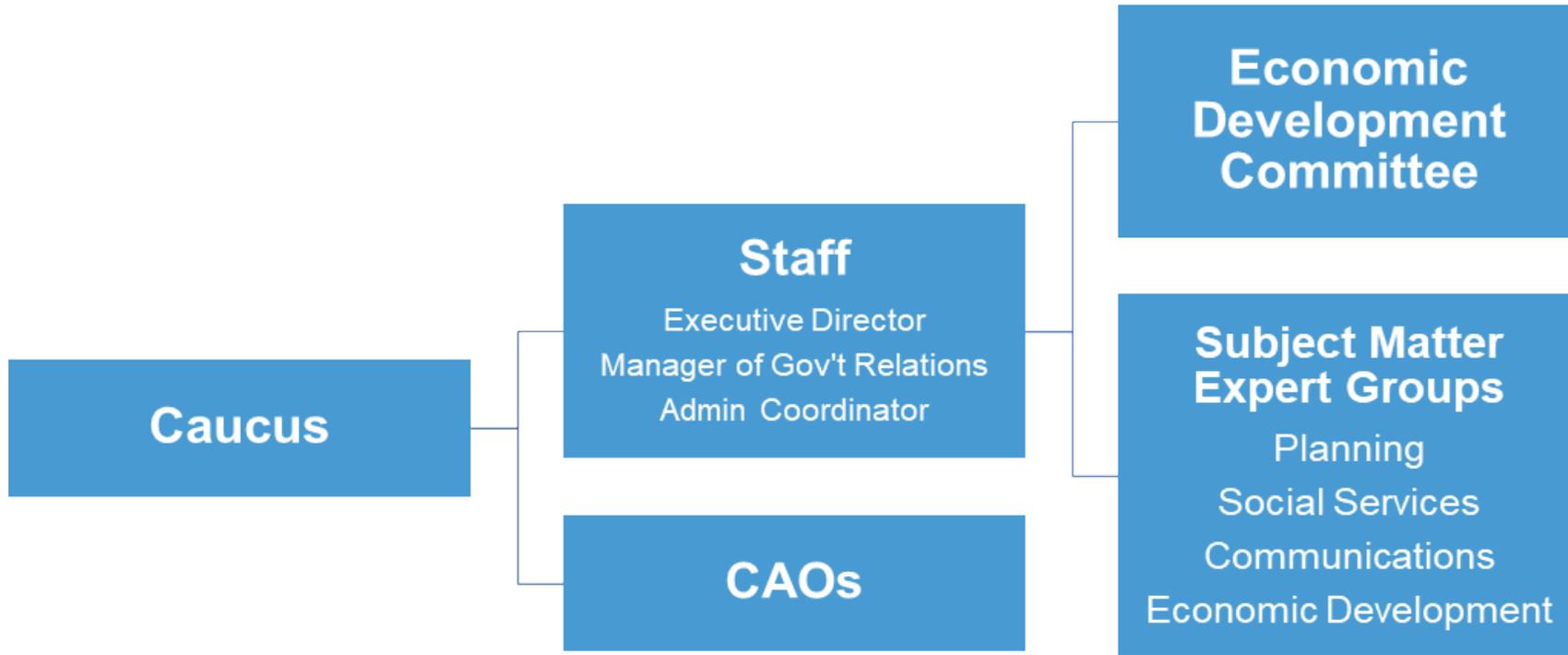
WHO IS THE WOWC?



- 16 Upper and Single tier municipalities
- 300 communities
- More than 1.5 million residents
- ½ Million square kilometers
- 90% rural



HOW DOES THE WOWC OPERATE?



ADVOCACY



- The WOWC's advocacy work has been executed through:
 - Meetings with Ministers and senior government officials
 - Partnerships with local and regional municipalities and organizations, and joint projects/advocacy with stakeholders
 - Letters, financial analyses and pre-budget submissions
- The WOWC monitors government legislation and provides research and analysis on issues affecting Western Ontario
- Where applicable, the WOWC supports and partners with other organizations such as SWIFT, AMO, FCM, EOWC, etc.



2023-24 PRIORITIES: HOUSING



ISSUE

Housing affordability, particularly in rural areas, continues to remain a strong focus within the region. Given the current housing and rental market, it is crucial to focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing, of all forms.

The Asks

1. We are asking for a definition from the Province on the promise to “keep municipalities whole”
2. Regarding the Building Homes Faster Act, WOWC would respectfully request numbers from the province, regarding how many new homes are expected in each County



2023-24 PRIORITIES: WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH



Issue

There has been an ongoing focus for the WOWC over the past few years on workforce retention and expansion. This has been highlighted in the collaborative regional work through the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy.

The Ask

We ask that the OINP will continue to be tailored to meet the needs of Western Ontario by including in-demand jobs for our region.



2022-23 PRIORITIES: MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS & HOMELESSNESS



ISSUE

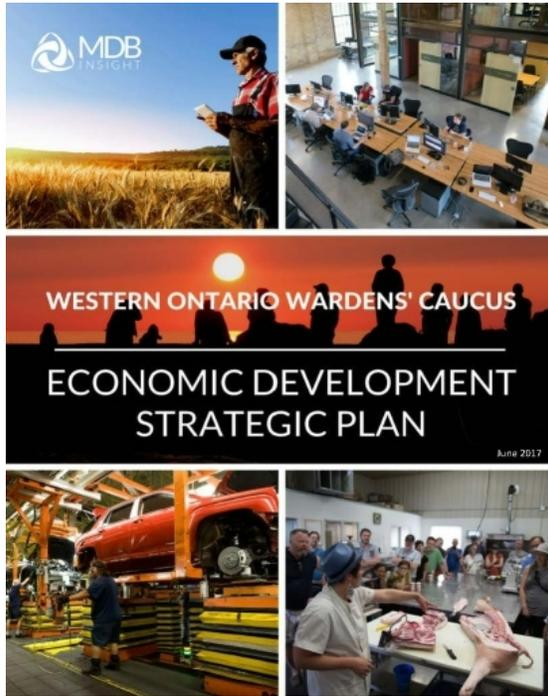
Funding for our rural communities is a necessity. We are less equipped with fewer resources than our urban counterparts to tackle the growing mental health and addictions crisis.

The Asks

1. Reiterated our support and request to the provincial government for permanent funding of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) program across Ontario
2. We are requesting that funding be allocated specifically for our rural communities as part of the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The WOWC in partnership with the Community Futures Western Ontario continues to implement the actions of the regional Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The Project

- Identify opportunities to advance the economy of Southwestern Ontario that also leverages the ongoing efforts of WOWC.
- Improve the underlying conditions for economic development throughout the region.
- Generate a series of actions at the regional level that enables the creation of jobs, wealth and investment across the region.



REGIONAL PARTNERS



**WORKFORCE
PLANNING
WEST**
GROWING OUR WORKFORCE

Community Futures



WESTERN ONTARIO 10
WOWC
WARDENS CAUCUS



— **OBCM** —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

EOWC
Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus

AMO Association of
Municipalities Ontario



TRILLIUM NETWORK
FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

**GOLDEN HORSESHOE
FOOD AND FARMING
ALLIANCE**



Working in partnership for a vibrant food and farming cluster



FEDERATION
OF CANADIAN
MUNICIPALITIES FÉDÉRATION
CANADIENNE DES
MUNICIPALITÉS



**RURAL ONTARIO
INSTITUTE**



RESOURCES

***.wowc.ca

Newsletters and Press Releases

Twitter @wowcinc

Facebook



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



- A seat at the regional table, representing our rural communities
- Advocacy to the provincial and federal governments
- Staff support networks through Subject Matter Expert teams
- Regional projects and resources including data tools such as ConnectON and the new Rural Housing Information System.



THANK YOU

Kate Burns Gallagher

Executive Director

Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

kate@wowc.ca

519-495-6059



**MINUTES
LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL**

May 3, 2023

Lambton County Council was in session in Council Chambers, Wyoming, Ontario, at 9:15 a.m. on the above date. Warden in the Chair; Roll called; All members present. The following members attended virtually: A. Broad, and J. Field (Alternate Member to B. Loosley).

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this land on which we are gathered today is part of the ancestral land of the Chippewa, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples, referred to collectively as the Anishinaabeg. It is through the connection of the Anishinaabeg with the spirit of the land, water and air that we recognize their unique cultures, traditions, and values. Together as treaty people, we have a shared responsibility to act with respect for the environment that sustains all life, protecting the future for those generations to come.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

In-Camera

#1: Case/Atkinson: That the Warden declare that County Council go in-camera to review the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, pursuant to s. 239 (2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.
Time: 9:18 a.m.

Open Session

The Warden declared that County Council go back into Open Session. Council then reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Rise and Report Motions of the In-Camera Session

The Clerk noted that County Council met in camera to adopt the Lambton County Council (Closed Session) Minutes dated April 5, 2023.

Delegations

#2: Dennis/Case: That we invite the delegations within the Bar to speak to County Council.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 2)

No One Stands Alone

Debb Pitel, Founder of No One Stands Alone spoke to County Council in regards to funding as a non-profit in support of mental health. A booklet of mental health agencies is compiled and made available to communities for those that need help with mental health and don't know where to turn. Presently, No One Stands Alone relies on the generosity of sponsorships and donations to produce such booklets so Ms. Pitel is requesting financial assistance to continue to provide this resource.

#3: Bradley/Dennis: That Ms. Pitel be invited to reach out to, and work with, the Public Health Services Division with respect to her No One Stands Alone work, and that the Public Health Services Division return to Council on or before Council's July 5th, 2023, meeting with a report updating Council on its communications and works with Ms. Pitel.

Carried.

Minutes of Council (Open Session)

The Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, were presented.

#4: Miller/Sageman: That the Lambton County Council (Open Session) minutes dated April 5, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Correspondence to Receive and File

#5: Ferguson/Case: That County Council support the resolution in correspondence CC 04-02-23 as follows:

Be it resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the issues of violence in rural communities as serious to health and wellness of local families; and

Be it further resolved that the Lanark County Council recognizes the rural Renfrew County Coroner's Inquest as important to all rural communities; and

Based on the statistics of 4815 crisis calls and service provision to 527 women and children in our local community, the Lanark County Council declares IPV (intimate partner violence)/VAW (violence against women) an epidemic as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County Coroner's jury recommendations; and

That this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario, local MPs and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, and the Federal Ministry of Women and Gender Equality.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 3)

CC 05-11-23 A resolution dated April 5, 2023 from Sasha Helmkey, Clerk, Township of Clearview supporting the correspondence/resolution from the Township of Lucan Biddulph regarding Barriers for Women in Politics stating:

Whereas, the Township of Clearview values equality and inclusivity in all areas of life, including politics;

Whereas, women have historically been underrepresented in politics, and continue to face barriers and discrimination in their pursuit of elected office;

Whereas, misogyny and harassment have been identified as significant challenges for women in politics, both in Canada and around the world;

Whereas, the Township of Clearview believes that all individuals have the right to participate in a political environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and misogyny;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Township of Clearview expresses its support for women in politics and their right to participate in a political environment that is free from misogyny and harassment, and where everyone feels equal.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Township of Clearview commits to taking steps to ensure that our political environment is inclusive and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity factors.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Township of Clearview encourages other municipalities in Ontario and across Canada to join us in supporting women in politics and promoting gender equality in all areas of society.

Be It Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario Municipalities for endorsement and the Premier of Ontario, to express the Township of Clearview's commitment to this issue and encourage action at the provincial level to create legislation to ensure equality, safety, and security.

#6: Cook/Case: That correspondence CC 05-11-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

#7: Hand/Veen: That County Council endorse the resolution in correspondence CC 05-12-23 as follows:

Whereas escalating insurance costs are one of this Council's Advocacy Priorities in the 2022-2023 Intergovernmental Action Plan;

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 4)

And Whereas at the January 12, 2023 Corporate Services Committee meeting, staff presented Report CR 23-008 that highlighted the City's annual insurance premiums have increased from \$782,331 to \$1,281, 512 from 2020 to 2023, representing an accumulated increase of 64% over this period;

And Whereas the annual increases to the City of Owen Sound's insurance premiums have been one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases over the past four years;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved That City Council directs staff to send a letter to all other municipalities in Ontario supporting the Municipality of Chatham-Kent calling for action to reduce insurance costs;

And That the City Manager have staff participate in any group that may be formed through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) or directly with other municipalities to support this effort;

And Further That this resolution be forwarded to the AMO, Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, Attorney General, Doug Downey, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Rick Byers, Premier Doug Ford, and MPP Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario Democratic Party and Leader of the Opposition.

Carried.

Correspondence from Member Municipalities

CC 05-10-23 A letter dated April 20, 2023 from Amy Burkhart, City Clerk, The Corporation of the City of Sarnia regarding a resolution adopted April 17, 2023 by Sarnia City Council as follows:

That Sarnia City Council refer the request from No One Stands Alone regarding the Need for Mental Health Help to Lambton County Council for consideration.

#8: Bradley/White: That correspondence CC 05-10-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Board of Health (Lambton Public Health)

Correspondence to Receive and File

CC 05-05-23 A letter from Douglas Lawrance, Chair, Board of Health, Northwestern Health Unit regarding a resolution passed at their March 3, 2023 Board of Health meeting calling on the Government of Canada to amend the Food and Drug Act to make it mandatory that all alcohol beverage containers have enhanced alcohol labels.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 5)

CC 05-06-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health Chair, Peterborough Public Health, dated March 3, 2023, entitled Medical Officer of Health Urges Province to Explore Improvements to Ontario Building Code to Improve Indoor Air Quality. Peterborough Public Health implores Ontario's Minister of Health to thoroughly examine the Ontario Building Code and to identify opportunities to make changes to the Code that can be implemented to improve indoor air quality and provide increased protection for residents of Ontario.

CC 05-07-23 A letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Chair, Board of Health Chair, Peterborough Public Health, dated March 8, 2023, entitled Medical Officer of Health Urges Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to Explore Improvements to Ontario Building Code to Improve Indoor Air Quality. Peterborough Public Health implores Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to thoroughly examine the Ontario Building Code and to identify opportunities to make changes to the Code that can be implemented to improve indoor air quality and provide increased protection for residents of Ontario.

CC 05-08-23 A letter from Andrea Horwath, Mayor, City of Hamilton, dated April 3, 2023, supporting the call to the province for sufficient, stable and sustained funding for local public health agencies.

CC 05-09-23 A letter from René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, dated April 11, 2023, regarding its support of the Ontario Government's decision to increase of Ontario's minimum wage in the fall of 2023. The Board is urging Ontario's government to consider the living wage rate calculations for Ontarians, with the understanding that an adequate income aligned with a living wage can contribute to increased physical and mental health outcomes of Ontarians and reduce costs associated with premature morbidity and mortality.

#9: Case/Miller: That correspondence CC 05-05-23, CC 05-06-23, CC 05-07-23, CC 05-08-23 and CC 05-09-23 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#10: Cook/Veen: That the following Information Reports from the Board of Health be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Rabies Prevention and Control Program Update.
- b) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Clinical and Family Services Activity.
- c) Information Report dated May 3, 2023 regarding Health Promotion – 2023 First Quarter Activity Report.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 6)

Items Not Requiring a Motion

#11: Hand/White: That the following Items not Requiring a Motion be received and filed:

- a) Creative County minutes dated November 24, 2022.
- b) Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership Board minutes dated January 24 and February 21, 2023.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated May 3, 2023 Regarding Bill 97 and Provincial Policy Statement (2023) Preliminary Summary

#12: Ferguson/White: That County Council not support the proposed Provincial Policy Statement until the complete document (including Natural Heritage) is provided and requests more time to review and respond.

Carried.

#13: Hand/White: That County Council does not support the severance of rural agricultural lands for residential lots and views this policy as ineffective, compared to the option to expand settlement areas within our rural communities.

#14: Ferguson/Bradley: That motion #13 of this day's minutes be tabled.

Carried.

#15: Bradley/Dennis: That County Council invite Monte McNaughton M.P.P. and Bob Bailey M.P.P to attend Council to address Council on Provincial planning priorities and other related County-Provincial matters, and if the Members of Provincial Parliament are not available when Council ordinarily meets, that the Warden call a special meeting to accommodate the Member of Provincial Parliament's schedule(s).

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Report dated May 3, 2023 Regarding Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan 2023 to 2024

#16: White/McRoberts:

- a) That staff be authorized to submit the proposed Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for the 2023-24 fiscal year as follows:

	Planned Financial Commitments by Quarter				
Operating	Q1 Apr-Jun	Q2 July-Sept	Q3 Oct-Dec	Q4 Jan-Mar	Total
Community Outreach & Support Services	162,062	162,062	162,062	215,562	\$701,750
Emergency Shelter Solutions	87,250	87,250	87,250	118,750	\$380,500
Housing Assistance	561,747	561,747	561,747	561,747	\$2,246,986
Supportive Housing	501,396	501,396	501,396	501,396	\$2,005,584
Total Operating	1,312,455	1,312,455	1,312,455	1,397,455	\$5,334,820
Administration Fees	28,078	84,234	84,234	84,234	\$280,780
Grand Total	1,340,533	1,396,689	1,396,689	1,481,689	\$5,615,600

b) That staff be authorized to re-allocate program funds between the program components in response to local needs, the updated County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan, and to ensure full utilization of allocations.

Carried.

#17: Bradley/McRoberts: That the County strike an advisory committee of individuals who attended the County’s recent Homelessness Summit to work with the County in implementing the recommendations arising from the summit.

Carried.

Committee Minutes

Mr. I. Veen presented the Committee A.M. minutes (including Board of Health) dated April 20, 2023.

#18: Veen/Sageman: That the Committee A.M. minutes (including Board of Health) dated April 20, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Mr. D. Ferguson presented the Committee P.M. minutes dated April 20, 2023.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 8)

#19: Ferguson/Atkinson: That the Committee P.M. minutes dated April 20, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Notice of Motion

CSX Transportation Rail Crossing at Broadway Street in St. Clair Township

#20: Agar/Case: That Council endorse the following resolution:

WHEREAS that portion of the railway at the intersection of Broadway Street and McDonald Street in St. Clair Township, Ontario, remains in place notwithstanding CSX Transportation's longstanding discontinued use thereof as evidenced by CSX Transportation's removal of adjoining rail tracks between French Line and Holt Line;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair has received numerous complaints about the Crossing and specifically the need for school busses to continue to stop at the Crossing (despite it not being actively used for some time) and the current condition of the Crossing's railway signal lights;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair is seeking support in requesting that CSX Transportation officially discontinue the rail line in the area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the County of Lambton support The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair regarding the proposed removal – and discontinuance – of the inactive railway and railway signal lights at the Crossing;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to CSX Transportation and the Canadian Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Omar Alghabra.

Carried.

By-Laws

#21: Hand/Ferguson: That By-Laws #15 to #19 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a first and second time.

Carried.

#22: Ferguson/Hand: That By-Laws #15 to #19 of 2023, as circulated, be taken as read a third time and finally passed.

Carried.

Lambton County Council (Open Session) May 3, 2023 (page 9)

Adjournment

#23: Dennis/Veen: That the Warden declare the meeting adjourned and that the next regular meeting be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023.

Carried.

Time: 10:34 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Warden

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

CC 06-02-23

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Williams

RESOLUTION NO 2023- 98

SECONDED BY Councillor Lang

DATE May 15, 2023

WHEREAS the goal of increasing housing supply and reducing barriers in planning processes as set out in the recent legislative, regulatory and policy changes, including new provisions from Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 is welcomed; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS (sections 2.6 and 4.3) would dramatically remove municipal power and renders aspects of the County's Official Plan, and other official plans throughout Ontario inoperative, terminating some local planning autonomy, and directly interfering with municipalities' ability to meet local variation and unique community needs; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS changes that would allow proliferation of lots with protection restricted to specialty crop areas only diminishes the purpose, uses, and integrity of rural and agricultural lands, thereby removing protection and restricting future uses of those lands; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS changes encourage sprawl and rural roadway strip development, rather than more fiscally and environmentally sustainable practices like intensification in established settlement areas; and

WHEREAS the province has announced changes will be proposed to natural heritage (section 4.1) that have yet to be published.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry urges the province to:

- pause proposed changes to the PPS, particularly regarding natural heritage (section 4.1) and agricultural lands (sections 2.6 and 4.3)
- reinvest trust in the local planning authority of all 444 municipalities, recognizing that each Ontario municipality has unique landscapes, different housing needs and differing visions for local planning matters

AND THAT our fellow municipalities be urged to voice their concerns regarding the proposed undermining of local planning authority;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all 444 municipalities, The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs

and Housing; The Hon. Lisa Thompson, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, The Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry MPP Nolan Quinn, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Stéphane Sarrazin , the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



WARDEN

CC 06-10-23



Enbridge Gas

500 Consumers Road
North York, Ontario M2J 1P8
Canada

May 2, 2023

Your Worship and Members of Council,

We are writing today as we've heard from many of you regarding the introduction of a locate charge, and we'd would like to provide some context and background regarding our approach. We are also seeing a lot of misinformation circulate, resulting in misunderstanding, and we'd like to correct the record.

We, along with **all** underground infrastructure owners, are required to comply with the recently released regulations related to locate delivery ([Bill 93](#)). In order to recover our compliance costs and protect the interests of our customers, we introduced a locate charge for **third party and for-profit locate requestors**. We want to reassure you that locates for private property owners and existing natural gas customers **remain at no charge**.

As we shared, the third-party locate charge is currently on pause as we continue to explore pathways and consult with our stakeholders and industry partners, including a phased approach focused on the adoption of a dedicated locator model for large infrastructure owners. Within a dedicated locator model, large excavators hire their own locators trained by infrastructure owners to locate all underground utilities on their projects, which leads to significant efficiencies in locate delivery.

In addition, misinformation is circulating that Enbridge Gas operates its infrastructure in municipal right of ways at no cost – **and this is simply not true**. Enbridge pays more than \$135 million in annual municipal taxes based upon the infrastructure we operate. We also pay additional fees where required when we install new pipe or initiate work to maintain existing assets. We deliver natural gas service to approximately 3.9 million customers in 313 municipalities across Ontario, through a network of 154,000 kilometers of pipeline. We complete approximately 1.2 million locate requests annually. And, in 2023, we will invest \$550 million to maintain and add customers to our natural gas system. We are a proud contributor to the communities in which we operate, and our commitment to the safe, reliable delivery of natural gas underpins everything we do.

We encourage you to call upon the Government of Ontario to enact a dedicated locator model for large infrastructure owners, and to support a phased approach to regulation adoption.

Please reach out should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Murray Costello, P.Eng.
Director, Southwest Region Operations

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TEL: 519-885-7425 | CELL: 819-635-3984 |
murray.costello@enbridge.com
603 Kumpf Drive, Waterloo, ON N2J 4A4

Mike McGivery
Director, Distribution Protection

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.
TEL: 416-758-4330 | CELL: 416-434-7920 |
michael.mcgivery@enbridge.com
500 Consumers Road, North York, Ontario M2J 1P8

CC: Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Hon. Kaleed Rasheed, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CC 06-04-23



May 4, 2023

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Jones:

Re: Support for the 2022 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario

Public Health Sudbury & Districts (Public Health) applauds the Chief Medical Officer of Health for highlighting the importance of public health readiness, collective action, and sustained investments in public health required to minimize the impacts of future pandemics on individuals, communities, and societies in his 2022 annual report: *Being ready: Ensuring public health preparedness for infectious outbreaks and pandemics*.

As the communities of Sudbury and districts transition through the recovery phase of the pandemic, the Report is a call to action to learn from our experience, so we are better prepared to not only protect ourselves, but to also invest in building strong and resilient systems and communities that create opportunities for the best health possible for all.

At its meeting on April 20, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #19-23:

WHEREAS on March 7, 2023, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health released his 2022 Annual Report titled, Being Ready: Ensuring Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Outbreaks and Pandemic; and

WHEREAS the 2022 Annual Report identified six next steps, including to (1) invest in preparedness, (2) strengthen accountabilities, (3) assess progress, (4) improve the health of Indigenous peoples, (5) improve the health of Black and other racialized populations, and (6) sustain relationships; and

Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

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The Honourable Sylvia Jones
May 4, 2023
Page 2

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to taking local action in support of these next steps and to do so requires sustained provincial investment in public health preparedness over time;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts call on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to fully support and implement the recommendations outlined in the Chief Medical Officer of Health 2022 Annual Report, including ensuring associated sustained funding for local public health;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board request the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure proactive engagement with local public health agencies as work is undertaken to review and strengthen the relevant Ontario Public Health Standards, including the Emergency Management Guidelines;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board share this motion with relevant stakeholders, including area mayors and reeves, local community partners, Ontario boards of health, and provincial partners and agencies.

Members of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts echo the Chief Medical Officer of Health's call to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and call on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to fully support and implement the recommendations outlined within, including ensuring associated sustained funding for local public health.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to ongoing investments in our own readiness, and to supporting the readiness of the public health sector and system, the communities we serve, and society overall. We all have a role to play in public health emergency preparedness, and we look forward to strengthening our relationships and collaborations to foster healthy and equitable communities.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
All Ontario Boards of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies



CC 06-03-23

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Public Health
PO Box 1136, 435 Grand Avenue West
Chatham, ON N7M 5L8
Tel: 519.352.7270 Fax: 519.352.2166

April 25, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Delivered via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
Delivered via email: sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Delivered via email: michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister Jones, and Minister Parsa:

RE: Income-based Policy Solutions to Reduce Household Food Insecurity

At its meeting held on March 15, 2023, the Chatham-Kent Board of Health received a staff report regarding Food Insecurity and 2022 Nutritious Food Basket (attached) as well as correspondence from the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health regarding income-based policy solutions around food insecurity. After considering the report and correspondence, the Board passed the following motion:

“To endorse the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH) letter urging the Ontario government to adopt income-based policy solutions that effectively reduce household food insecurity.”

Household food insecurity is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints. Household income is directly proportional to vulnerability to food insecurity. Food insecurity due to insufficient income is a key social determinant of health as it contributes to increased risk for poor health outcomes, such as mental health disorders, non-communicable diseases, and infections, leading to higher healthcare costs.

Household food insecurity is a serious public health problem in Ontario. Based on the Canadian Income Survey, one in five households in Chatham-Kent are currently food insecure. Families and individuals relying on social assistance in Chatham-Kent fair much worse. A family of four, with two adults on Ontario Works, spends 38% of their income on food and 45% of their income on rent, with only \$461.97 leftover per month.

.../2



Hon. Doug Ford
April 25, 2023

Page 2 of 2

A single person on the Ontario Disability Support Program spends 29% of their income on food, and 62% of their income on rent per month, with only \$121.24 remaining for other basic needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the continuous rise in inflation, including the cost of food, is only working to increase rates of food insecurity. Income-based policies, such as providing a basic income guarantee, increasing minimum wage to a living wage, indexing social assistance rates to inflation and the costs of living, and reducing income tax for low-income households, can be effective solutions.

The Ontario government can play a significant role in supporting healthy public policies to address food insecurity and ensure all individuals have the opportunity to reach their full health potential. We appreciate your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brock McGregor
Chair, Chatham-Kent Board of Health

Copy to:

Hon. Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa)

Chatham-Kent Municipal Council

Ontario Boards of Health

Attachment: CK Public Health staff report titled Food Insecurity and the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket

response to COVID-19. This has allowed for more accuracy and flexibility when collecting and analyzing data. As such, the 2022 NFB survey results will serve a new baseline, and should not be compared to previous years' results.

Food Insecurity

“Food Insecurity” is used interchangeably with “Household Food Insecurity” throughout this report.

Household food insecurity (HFI) is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints⁴. It is rooted in poverty: inadequate and insecure income, and material deprivation⁴. HFI is a serious public health issue nationally, provincially, and specifically in the Chatham-Kent (CK) region, and has been amplified by the economic downturn due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, the Canadian Income Survey (CIS), an annual cross-sectional survey examining income and income sources of Canadians, started collecting information on food insecurity using the Household Food Security Survey Module (HFSSM)⁴. As well, moderate and severe food insecurity were added as indicators on the poverty dashboard. In the past, HFI was measured by the HFSSM in the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)⁴.

Those most impacted by HFI are low-income groups, which includes those earning minimum wage and people who receive social assistance⁴. In Ontario, 48.2% of food insecure households relied on employment as their main source of income. This reflects the nature of precarious and low-paying jobs, and multi-person households with a single income-earner. As well, with almost 7 in 10 households on social assistance being food insecure, this shows that current social assistance programs are inadequate for tackling food insecurity⁴.

Food insecurity worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasized the need for increased financial support for low-income households⁵. The CIS suggests that although HFI remained relatively the same between 2019 and 2021, this could be explained by the provincial and federal income supports, wage subsidies, and economic disruptions during that time⁴.

Food insecurity significantly impacts mental and physical health and well-being⁴. People living in food insecure households are more likely to be diagnosed with chronic diseases, including mental health disorders, non-communicable diseases, and infections. This leads to increased public expenditures on the healthcare system⁴.

Research suggests emergency food programs are important community services, but they are not an effective long-term solution to food insecurity⁶ because they do not address the root cause⁴. However, an income-based response can work to effectively resolve food insecurity and improve health^{2,7}. For example, federal income supports for older adults, such as the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, have been shown to decrease food insecurity rates by 50% for those over 65 years of age⁸.

Comments

According to the most recent data, almost 20% of households in Chatham-Kent (one in five) are food insecure⁹, meaning they either worried about running out of food and/or had limited food selection, compromised the quality and/or quantity of food, missed meals, reduced food intake, or at the extreme end, went a day or more without food, all due to lack of money to purchase food.

In 2022, the cost of feeding a family of four in Chatham-Kent was \$1050.36/month or \$242.58/week. In June 2022, NFB data was collected from six different grocery stores in both urban and rural settings. Due to the timing of collection, the results will not reflect inflationary or other increases in food costs since that time.

The ODPH Food Insecurity Workgroup Income Scenario Tool has been utilized to help put the NFB results into a realistic context. The following table outlines the scenarios for various households in CK.

Monthly Expenses	One Person, Ontario Works	One Person, Ontario Disability Support Program	Family of Four, Ontario Worksⁱ	Family of Four, full time minimum wage earnerⁱⁱ	Family of Four, median income (after tax)ⁱⁱⁱ
Total income^a	\$863	\$1309	\$2760	\$3973	\$9323
Average rent (utilities included)^b	\$614 *bachelor	\$807 *One bedroom	\$1247.67 *Three bedroom	\$1247.67 *Three bedroom	\$1247.67 *Three bedroom
Cost of food^c	\$380.76	\$380.76	\$1050.36	\$1050.36	\$1050.36
Leftover income for other basic expenses	-\$131.76	\$121.24	\$461.97	\$1674.97	\$7024.97
% Income for rent	71%	62%	45%	31%	13%
% Income for food	44%	29%	38%	26%	11%

a Includes benefits and credits after tax

b Rental costs from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (October, 2021)

c 2022 Chatham-Kent Nutritious Food Basket

i 2 Adults on OW

ii 1 earner, 40hr/wk, \$15/hr (May 2022)

iii Income from employment based on median after-tax income- couples with children. EI and CPP contributions are calculated using median total income- couples with children. Dual income family with a split of 65% / 35% between partners.

Families and individuals living on low incomes in Chatham-Kent face significant financial pressures with little, if any, money left over to cover other monthly expenses after paying for food and rent. In general, food in Chatham-Kent is more affordable for residents with adequate incomes. A family of four with median income spends approximately 11% of their after tax income on food, compared to those on Ontario works where a single person spends 44% and a family of four spends 38% of their income on food.

Studies suggest that food insecurity is primarily associated with inadequate income and household financial constraints, not food cost. As a result ODPH has focused their most recent advocacy efforts on adopting income-based policy solutions in an effort to reduce food insecurity (Appendix A). This includes recommendations for increasing social assistance and minimum wage rates to reflect the cost of living and inflation, and reducing income tax rates for the lowest income households.

Areas of Strategic Focus

This report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

			
Economic Prosperity	Healthy & Safe Community	People & Culture	Environmental Sustainability
	2.1, 2.2., 2.3		

Consultation

While consultation was not required to produce this information report, the results will be shared with relevant stakeholders and they would be consulted through established Health Unit processes to help inform future nutrition program planning.

Communication

The results from the NFB will be shared with the Chatham-Kent community through the CK Public Health website and related communication materials including an infographic and report on “Food Insecurity in Chatham-Kent”. These communications will also be shared with community stakeholders, such as the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council, United Way of Chatham-Kent, and the Chatham-Kent Prosperity Roundtable. Dietitians at CK Public Health will utilize the information to aid in program monitoring and evaluation, and to increase staff and community awareness and education related to food insecurity.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ)

This report highlights the cost of eating a nutritious diet based on different household income scenarios. By monitoring food affordability the Board of Health, along with other community partners and stakeholders, can have a better understanding of the impacts of household income on healthy eating behaviours and help inform the development of local programs, services, and healthy public policy to address health inequities.

Food Insecurity and the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket

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Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this information report.

Prepared by:

Sharmini Balakrishnan, MPH, RD
Public Health Nutritionist

Reviewed by:

Chris Sherman
Program Manager, Chronic Disease and Well Being

Teresa Bendo, MBA
Director, Public Health

April Rietdyk, RN, BScN, MHS, PhD PUBH
General Manager
Community Human Services

Attachment: Appendix A-Letter to Premier Ford, Minister Jones, and Minister Fullerton regarding household food insecurity

-
1. Government of Canada. (2019). 2019 National Nutritious Food Basket Reference Guide. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/food-nutrition/food-nutrition-surveillance/national-nutritious-food-basket/contents.html>
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Food Insecurity and the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket

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www.odph.ca
info@odph.ca
@RDsPubHealthON

October 27, 2022

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health via email: sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services via email:
Merrilee.Fullertonco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister Jones, and Minister Fullerton:

[Ontario Dietitians in Public Health](http://www.odph.ca) (ODPH) is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. We are writing to you, as newly re-elected leaders of the Province of Ontario, to express serious concern about the **2.34 million Ontarians who experienced household food insecurity in 2021**.¹ The situation has undoubtedly worsened in 2022 with an extraordinary rate of food inflation. In Ontario, the price of food purchased from stores in September 2022 was 11.5% higher than in September 2021², rising at a rate not seen since the early 1980s.

Household food insecurity (HFI) is inadequate or insecure access to food due to household financial constraints. **HFI is an urgent public health, human rights, and social justice problem that, if not addressed, will continue to have serious consequences to Ontario's economic progress as well as the health and well-being of citizens.** We strongly urge the Ontario government to adopt policies, as outlined in *Provincial Policy Levers to Reduce Household Food Insecurity*³, proven to effectively reduce HFI:

- Higher minimum wage rates
- Increasing social assistance rates
- Reducing income tax rates for the lowest income households.

The health consequences of food insecurity are a large burden on our province's healthcare system. Not being able to afford food has serious adverse effects on people's physical and mental health and the ability to lead productive lives. Ontarians living with food insecurity are at greater risk for numerous chronic conditions including mental health disorders, non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease), and infections.¹ People who have chronic conditions and are food insecure are more likely to have negative disease outcomes, be hospitalized, or die prematurely.¹ Policies that effectively reduce food insecurity could offset considerable public expenditures on healthcare in Ontario.

Ontarians receiving social assistance have an extremely high risk for food insecurity. In 2021, 67.2% of Ontario households reliant on social assistance were food insecure.¹ Benefits are inadequate to meet recipients' basic needs. **When people are not able to meet their basic needs, they cannot achieve the physical, mental and social well-being needed to sustain long-term employment.** In a province as wealthy as Ontario, it is unacceptable and unjust that Ontario Works (OW) rates are not based on the actual costs of living, are not indexed to inflation, and do not protect vulnerable citizens from living in dire situations without the money they need to buy food. While Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates have increased by 5% and are now indexed to inflation, this is no where near enough to protect ODSP recipients from food insecurity.

Having a job is not necessarily protective against food insecurity. In 2021, 48.2% of food insecure households in Ontario reported wages, salaries, or self-employment as their household's main source of income.¹ The high prevalence of food insecurity among those in the workforce reflects precarious and low-paying jobs and multi-person households with a single income-earner.⁴

Food charity is NOT a solution to the problem of HFI. Food banks may provide temporary food relief but do not address the persistent problem of inadequate income.⁵ Only about one-quarter of households experiencing food insecurity go to food banks and for those who do use them, food insecurity does not go away.⁶

Individuals and families struggling to put food on the table also struggle to afford other basic needs. HFI is a sign of deprivation, rooted in inadequate and unstable incomes that have not kept pace with the costs of living. ODPH strongly encourages the Government of Ontario to adopt income-based policy solutions that effectively reduce food insecurity. You have the power to make our province a better place for all Ontarians to lead healthier and happier lives.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Smith
Co-Chair ODPH Executive



Erin Reyce, RD
Co-Chair, Food Insecurity Workgroup

cc.

Peter Tabuns, MPP Toronto–Danforth, Leader, Official Opposition and Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario via email tabunsp-qp@ndp.on.ca

France Gélinas, MPP Nickel Belt, Health Critic via email: gelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca

Chandra Pasma, MPP Ottawa-West Nepean, Poverty and Homelessness Reduction Critic via email: CPasma-CO@ndp.on.ca

Laura Mae Lindo, MPP Kitchener-Centre, Anti-Racism and Equity Critic via email: LLindo-QP@ndp.on.ca

Monique Taylor, MPP Hamilton Mountain, Children, Community and Social Services Critic via email: MTaylor-QP@ndp.on.ca

John Fraser, MPP Ottawa South, Interim Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party via email: jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Mike Schreiner, MPP Guelph, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario via email: mschreiner@ola.org

Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies via email: loretta@alphaweb.org

John Atkinson, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association via email: jatkinson@opha.on.ca



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References:

1. Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved 20Sept2022 from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>.
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May 8, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Rm 281
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social
Services
438 University Ave, 7th Floor.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8
Sent via email: michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health/Deputy Premier
777 Bay Street, College Park, 5th Floor.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent via email: sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford, Deputy Premier and Minister Jones, and Minister Parsa

Re: Addressing Household Food Insecurity in Ontario

On April 05, 2023, at a regular meeting of the Board of Health (Board) for the Timiskaming Health Unit, the Board recognized Household Food Insecurity (HFI) as an income-driven problem that requires income-based solutions.

Household food insecurity is a significant issue affecting our region, with 1 in 5 households in Timiskaming experiencing some form of food insecurity.² This vulnerability is closely linked to household income, and families with lower incomes are more likely to struggle with affording food, rent and other basic needs.¹

The 2022 Monitoring Food Affordability findings show that a family of four in Timiskaming spends \$1,152 monthly on food.² This family would need to allocate a significant portion of their income towards rent and food, with 50% and 41%, respectively. Consequently, they would have a meagre average of \$228 left to cover other basic necessities such as childcare, transportation, utilities, and medication.² To afford the actual cost of living in Timiskaming, individuals would need to earn a living wage of \$19.70, highlighting a discrepancy between the current minimum wage and the living wage.³

Accordingly, the Board endorsed the enclosed correspondence from the [Ontario Dietitians in Public Health \(ODPH\)](#) urging the Ontario government to adopt income-based solutions that effectively reduce HFI; these include the reinstatement of the basic income guarantee project, closing the gap between



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the minimum wage and living wage, increasing social assistance rates and indexing them to match the true cost of living, and reducing income tax rates for lowest-income households. These policies effectively reduce household food insecurity, improve health outcomes, and reduce long-term healthcare costs.¹

Our Board recognizes that the province of Ontario has the power to reduce food insecurity and extreme poverty for households receiving social assistance. We kindly request that you take into consideration the motion passed by our Board regarding this pressing issue.

We appreciate your attention to this significant matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Wight
Board of Health Chair

cc John Vanthof, MPP – Timiskaming-Cochrane
Anthony Rota, MP – Timiskaming-Nipissing
Charlie Angus, MP – Timmins-James Bay
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA)
Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)
Ontario Boards of Health
Health Unit Member Municipalities

References

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www.timiskaminghu.com

Board of Health MOTION #21R-2023 – April 05, 2023

Moved by: Curtis Arthur Seconded by: Mark Wilson

WHEREAS, it is a requirement under the Ontario Public Health Standards for public health units to monitor food affordability, assess and report on the health of local populations, and describe the existence and impact of health disparities; AND

WHEREAS, food insecurity is widely known to have adverse effects on both physical and mental health; AND adequate income is a crucial social determinant of health that significantly affects food security; AND

WHEREAS, 67% of households in Ontario with social assistance as their primary income source experience food insecurity; AND

WHEREAS, the 2022 Monitoring food affordability results demonstrate that households relying on social assistance do not have enough money to cover their living expenses, including food; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Health for the Timiskaming Health Unit (Board) continues to increase awareness of, and work to reduce, health inequities, including those related to food insecurity; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board endorses the [Ontario Dietitians in Public Health \(ODPH\)](#) call for the provincial government to take swift and immediate action in implementing income-based policy interventions for all in Ontario, aged 18–64 years as an effective and long-term response to household food insecurity; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board calls on the Province of Ontario to increase social assistance rates to reflect the true costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation moving forward; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Province to resume exploring the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; AND

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Health provide correspondence of these resolutions to John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), Anthony Rota, MP (Timiskaming-Nipissing), Charlie Angus, MP (Timmins-James Bay), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH), Ontario Boards of Health , and Health Unit Member Municipalities.

CARRIED



CC 06-06-23

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, M.P.P.
Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8
Sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Michael A. Tibollo, M.P.P.
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Ministry of Health
Frost South
6th Floor
7 Queens Park Circle
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Michael.tiboloco@pc.ola.org

May 11, 2023

Subject: Declarations of Emergency in the Areas of Homelessness, Mental Health and Opioid Overdoses/Poisoning

Dear Minister Jones and Minister Tibollo,

At the April 12, 2023 Hamilton City Council meeting, a motion was passed declaring an emergency of Homelessness, Mental Health, and Opioid Overdoses/Poisoning. In adherence with this motion, I am writing to you today to request that the Provincial Government act on the eight measures proposed by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies". These specific measures include:

1. Creation of a multi-sectoral task force to guide the development of a robust provincial opioid response plan that will ensure necessary resourcing, policy change, and health and social system coordination;
2. Expanding access to evidence informed harm reduction programs and practices including lifting the provincial cap of 21 Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) Sites, funding Urgent Public Health Needs Sites (UPHNS) and scaling up safer supply options

71 MAIN STREET WEST, 2ND FLOOR, HAMILTON, ONTARIO L8P 4Y5 PHONE 905.546.4200 FAX: 905.546.2340

3. Revision of the current CTS model to address the growing trends of opioid poisoning amongst those who are using inhalation methods;
4. Expanding access to opioid agonist therapy for opioid use disorder through a range of settings (e.g. mobile outreach, primary care, emergency departments, Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine Clinics), and a variety of medication options;
5. Providing a long-term financial commitment to create more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, including people with substance use disorders;
6. Addressing the structural stigma and harms that discriminate against people who use drugs, through provincial support and advocacy to the Federal government to decriminalize personal use and possession of substances and ensure increased investments in health and social services at all levels;
7. Increasing investments in evidence-informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and
8. Funding additional and dedicated positions for public health to support the critical coordination and leadership of local opioid and substance abuse strategies.”

As with other municipalities throughout Ontario, the impact of the drug toxicity crisis continues to have a significant impact on our community. Between January 2023 and April 2023, Hamilton Paramedic Services responded to 336 incidents related to suspect opioid overdoses, with three out of the four months surpassing previous monthly totals. Furthermore, 52 suspect drug-related deaths have occurred this year as of April 12, not only representing lives cut short but also untold grief for the loved ones of these individuals and the broader community.

Hamilton continues to coordinate a local response with health and social service providers to address this public health crisis by leveraging local expertise and resources. While these local efforts continue, further response and collaboration is needed at all levels of government. The eight measures recommended by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies would provide a range of interventions to best support individuals based on their needs, and reflect the ongoing serious harms present in our community related to the toxic drug supply. For example, investing in the necessary support and prevention initiatives for our children and youth would promote mental health and work to prevent substance use. Increasing the number of CTS sites would help save lives by increasing

the number of places to safely consume substances in our community, while facilitating access to treatment options. As this complex issue transcends municipal boundaries, the Province is best situated to act decisively in order meet these goals through their capacity, resources, and leadership.

We firmly believe that one of the necessary responses to the ongoing drug toxicity crisis is to action the above eight items. However, Hamilton cannot accomplish this undertaking alone and Provincial leadership is needed to ensure success. The Hamilton Public Health Services team is more than agreeable to meet with your staff to tackle this task head-on and thereby continue to ensure that Ontario is a place where all its residents can be healthy, prosperous and reach their fullest potential throughout life.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrea Horwath

Mayor

City of Hamilton

CC:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General

Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Hon. Neil Lumsden, MPP Hamilton East – Stoney Creek

Donna Skelly, MPP Flamborough – Glanbrook

Monique Taylor, MPP Hamilton Mountain

Sandy Shaw, MPP Hamilton West – Ancaster – Dundas

Sarah Jama, MPP Hamilton Centre

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health

Ontario Boards of Health

Ontario Health

Ontario Public Health Association



CC 06-07-23

May 16, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am writing to convey the Board's support for Bill 93 Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023 which recently passed second reading.

The matter of boating safety and drowning prevention is of great interest to the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts. On September 22, 2022, we advised your office of the Board's [resolution](#) to request the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals in a pleasure boat to wear a lifejacket or PFD.

Over the 10-year period from 2012 to 2021, 2147 Ontarians (65 Sudbury and districts) had emergency department visits that resulted from a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft and, over the last 10 years of available death data (2009-2018), 198 Ontarians (8 Sudbury and districts) died of a drowning or submersion injury related to watercraft. The Board of Health is aware that of the nationally reported boating deaths from 2013 to 2017 for which data were available, 79% were not wearing a lifejacket or personal floatation device (PFD). Not wearing a lifejacket is the most common behavioural risk factor associated with boating drownings across the lifespan. In Canadian drowning deaths from 2013 to 2017 for which PFD data were available, 87% of 15–34-year-olds, 75% of 35–64-year-olds, and 80% of 65+ year olds were not wearing lifejackets. Not wearing lifejackets continues to be identified as the most common risk factor in drowning deaths beyond childhood.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca

Healthier communities for all.
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Letter to the Premier of Ontario
Re: Bill 93 – Joshua’s Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023
May 16, 2023
Page 2

Bill 93 is an important first step to saving lives. Public Health will continue to strongly advocate for the Government of Ontario to enact legislation requiring all individuals to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) or lifejacket while on a pleasure boat that is underway, or while being towed behind a pleasure boat using recreational water equipment.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Honourable C. Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Honourable S. Jones, Minister of Health
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
Marc Serré, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Carol Hugues, Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
All Ontario Boards of Health



CC 06-08-23

Jackson Square, 185 King Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8
P: 705-743-1000 or 1-877-743-0101
F: 705-743-2897
peterboroughpublichealth.ca

May 17, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Jones:

Re: Universal, No-cost Coverage for all Prescription Contraceptive Options for all Ontarians

At its May 10, 2023 meeting, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health considered correspondence from Chatham-Kent Public Health regarding universal, no-cost coverage for all prescription contraceptive options for all Ontarians, and expressed its support for this initiative.

As noted in correspondence sent earlier this year by our Medical Officer of Health & Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Thomas Piggott, to the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health on International Women's Day, this measure will improve health for women, girls, and gender-diverse people by bridging gaps in access to contraception and menstrual products.

Equitable access to contraception and menstrual products is a human rights and health equity issue, yet many Ontarians face barriers accessing these products due to factors such as cost, geography, availability of healthcare services, and education.

Canada is the only country in the world with universal health care that does not offer public coverage for contraception. Recent data shows that 1 in 5 Canadians lack sufficient access to drug coverage required to obtain medications needed to support their reproductive and sexual health.

On April 1, British Columbia became the first province in Canada to offer free prescription contraception for all residents. The province covers the cost of prescription contraception, including oral hormone pills, contraceptive injections, copper and hormonal intrauterine devices, subdermal (under-the-skin) implants, and emergency contraceptives (often known as the 'morning-after' pill or Plan B). I would encourage you to consider similar action to improve access to free contraception in Ontario.

Current research also reveals that many Canadians struggle to afford menstrual products, an issue that is often referred to as period poverty. Recent estimates from the Federal Government suggests menstrual products can cost up to \$6,000 over an individual's lifetime, and that 1 in 3 Canadians struggle to afford products such as pads, tampons, and liners.

Serving the residents of **Curve Lake** and **Hiawatha First Nations**, and the **County** and **City of Peterborough**

I applaud the Government of Ontario for the recent expanded public access to contraception and menstrual products for eligible populations. However, I note that beyond school settings gaps in access remain. In particular, evidence shows that marginalized communities, including refugees, sex workers, trans and non-binary people, Indigenous communities, people experiencing homelessness, and people living in rural and remote areas, continue to face challenges accessing these necessities.

The inability to afford basic necessities such as tampons, pads and liners fuel stigma and shame while creating health risks for people who struggle to afford them. This shows that efforts to advance reproductive justice and sexual health are linked to income inequality and resolving the factors that prevent people accessing their basic needs. Gender equity is a public health issue, but it is also all of our issue to address.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, *Embrace Equity for Women*, spoke clearly to the public health issues of free access to contraception and menstrual products. I trust you will consider our efforts, as well as the advocacy of others, who continue to voice their support to ensure equitable access to all.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Councillor Kathryn Wilson
Chair, Board of Health

/ag

cc: Local MPPs
Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)

CC 06-12-23



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peterboroughpublichealth.ca

May 19, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier of Ontario
Minister of Health
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Re: Peterborough Public Health 2024 Budget

Dear Minister Jones:

The PPH Board of Health (BOH) recently met with our Members of Provincial Parliament and representatives from the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough, Curve Lake First Nation, and Hiawatha First Nation to discuss our shared concerns surrounding the financial challenges facing public health.

We recognize that it is still early in the budget process, and that the 2023 provincial budget implementation is still progressing. However, because of the breadth of uncertainties and financial risks facing public health in our region, we wanted the opportunity to discuss our current and forthcoming challenges. We are grateful for the engagement of MPPs Piccini, Scott and Smith, and appreciate their thoughtful reflections and willingness to follow up on concerns from local funders.

The BOH is proud to work with provincial and local funding partners to deliver public health services to our region. The provincial role in public health funding has been essential throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are appreciative of the support we have received from your Government through one-time extraordinary funding to ensure the most effective response possible.

From previous communication from PPH, and other local public health agencies, you will likely be aware that there are longstanding challenges with the sustainability of public health funding in Ontario. PPH has worked to maximize efficiencies in operations, and for years now has seen funding agreements fall short of inflationary increases. We have now reached a point where we cannot continue to deliver critical public health services with the funding we receive.

There are three significant financial concerns facing public health in 2024:

1. PPH, like other sectors, must account for cost increasing at an average rate of 2-3% per year just to maintain the same level of programming. In 2023, the approved PPH cost-shared budget increased by 1.94%, as we continue to be careful stewards of public funds, while maintaining needed services. Yet provincial funding increases have not kept pace. Will your government ensure adequate continued base funding increases to, at minimum, maintain existing service levels?
2. COVID-19 funding has been extended for 2023; however, we are uncertain whether this will continue beyond the current year. This uncertainty undermines our ability to retain the human health resources required to maintain a proportionate response to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. It also further erodes our ability to ensure readiness for future threats to population health, as has been prioritized

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by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health in his [2022 Annual Report](#). Will your government continue to ensure PPH is funded at a level to adequately maintain a proportionate COVID-19 contact tracing and vaccination response, and ensure readiness for future threats to population health?

3. The Province of Ontario moved from a 75/25 to a 70/30 funding split; however, mitigation funding has delayed this download to municipalities. Will your government reverse the decision to move to a 70/30 funding split and maintain that additional contribution to public health? If not, will you consider supporting phasing this in over multiple years to ensure that this download can be effectively managed by local funders?

We continue to value our partnership with the Province of Ontario on advancing public health issues in this community. The COVID-19 pandemic and the aforementioned Ontario CMOH 2022 Annual Report have highlighted the need to ensure the stability of public health funding for continued response to COVID-19 and future health threats, which may be just around the corner. The work of public health extends further to improving the health and prosperity of our community.

In the City, County, Curve Lake First Nation and Hiawatha First Nation, further loss of public health programs will mean that businesses cannot operate safely, people cannot access important public health services, and health and economic development throughout our region will suffer. Without addressing these acute funding issues our community may experience:

- Diminished capacity to respond to and manage disease outbreaks in Long-Term Care, risking the lives of elderly and medically fragile residents;
- Negative economic consequences for over 1,500 local businesses and significant risks to public safety as food premises and small drinking water systems are left uninspected or face delayed openings;
- Reduced ability to vaccinate school-aged children against infectious diseases and screen for urgent oral health issues, undermining lifelong health and opportunities for future employment.

The pandemic has taught us that healthy communities and economies cannot exist without healthy people. With all that we have learned over the past three years, we seek your support and investment to ensure a strengthened and resilient public health system without creating undue strain on local funders.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Miigwech,

Original signed by

Councillor Kathryn Wilson
Chair, Board of Health

/ag

cc: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Local Councils
Local MPPs
The Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Ontario Boards of Health

Serving the residents of Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations, and the County and City of Peterborough



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection Lori Lucas, Supervisor, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives - Update

BACKGROUND

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OHPS) mandates the Boards of Health to monitor, assess and communicate to the public about health hazards including climate change, exposure to radiation (i.e., UV light), extreme weather, and outdoor air pollutants (air quality). Lambton Public Health's (LPH) initiatives to monitor and address these issues build upon the OHPS through activities for air quality and smog, heat warnings/extended heat warnings as well as air quality partnerships.

This report summarizes the air quality and extreme temperature initiatives undertaken by LPH. The most recent update on this program was provided to Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (County) through Committee A.M. report *Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives Update* dated June 15, 2022.

DISCUSSION

Air Quality and Smog

The purpose of the Smog Advisory Notification Procedure at LPH is to inform all County staff when a Special Air Quality Statement (SAQS) or a Smog and Air Health Advisory (SAHA) is issued for Sarnia-Lambton by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). This procedure also acts as an information and education channel for the public to reduce the health and environmental impacts from smog.

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a scale designed to help the public understand what the air quality around them means to their health and it is used across the province. Values range from low risk to very high risk and each connects to suggested steps to reduce exposure and risk. The AQHI provides real-time air quality measurements and

forecasts.

A SAQS is issued if a high-risk AQHI value is forecast to last for one to two hours. The purpose of a SAQS is to be precautionary and to be vigilant of health as it relates to the AQHI. If a high-risk AQHI value is forecast to persist for a duration of three or more hours, then a SAHA will be issued.

Each May, a memo to all County employees is distributed to remind them of the Smog Advisory Procedure and to provide further resources and information for the pending summer smog season.

When the first SAQS or SAHA of the season is issued, LPH issues a media release to the public reminding residents of action steps to take during air quality warnings, including reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities. The Air Quality Ontario website provides information on the AQHI, SAQS's and SAHA's. A link to this website can be found on LambtonPublicHealth.ca

The SAQS/SAHA frequency and duration are summarized in Appendix "A".

Extreme Heat Alerts

The purpose of the Extreme Heat Alerts procedure is to inform the local media, agencies, and the public in a coordinated manner, of the forecast of extreme heat conditions to ensure that persons vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat are protected. Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings also serve to inform the wider community of the needs of others, and to inform the public about precautions that can be taken to prevent injuries due to extreme weather conditions.

LPH adopted the provincial *Harmonized Heat Warning and Information System* in the summer of 2016. Issuing heat warnings helps to remind the public that there are health risks associated with extreme heat.

A Heat Warning (issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Lambton Public Health) will be issued in the following circumstances:

Heat Warning Region	Condition	Duration
South (includes Lambton County)	Tmax ≥ 31°C and Tmin ≥ 20°C OR Humidex ≥ 40	2+ days

An Extended Heat Warning (issued by LPH) will be issued when the event lasts longer than two days and continues for three or more days.

LPH also chairs the Extreme Temperatures Stakeholders Group (ETSG) which consists of community agencies and organizations who work with vulnerable populations. The ETSG is encouraged to distribute all warnings and alerts to their clients and partners to ensure

vulnerable populations are protected.

During Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings, temporary cooling center locations are opened by community partners (e.g., recreation centers, health centers, and other public buildings). LPH provides information about cooling center locations on the LPH website at LambtonPublicHealth.ca and in media releases issued for Heat Warnings and Extended Heat Warnings.

For the 2023 season, there will be 11 cooling center locations throughout the County. See Appendix "B" for a list of 2023 cooling center locations.

Cold Alerts

LPH also issues cold alerts with a similar process to the heat warning system. A Cold Alert is issued when one or more of these criteria are met:

- daily predicted low temperature of -15° Celsius without wind chill;
- the wind chill reaches the level at which Environment and Climate Change Canada issues an Extreme Cold Warning; or
- extreme weather conditions, such as a blizzard or ice storm.

Staff monitors the Environment and Climate Change Canada weather forecasts/notices and when the criterion for initiating a Cold Alert is met, the alert is issued through a media release. The Extreme Temperatures Stakeholder group is encouraged to share the alert with their clients and partners to ensure vulnerable populations are protected.

Heat and cold alerts are also issued through Sarnia-Lambton Alerts (formerly known as myCNN) to notify residents that have signed up to receive extreme temperature alerts.

The heat warning and cold alert frequency and duration are summarized in Appendix "C".

Air Quality Partnerships

LPH is a member of the Clean Air Sarnia and Area (CASA) advisory panel. The CASA advisory panel is a partnership of industry, First Nations, government, and community members dedicated to improving the air monitoring network in the Sarnia air shed. CASA was formed in 2015 and works to improve air quality in the Sarnia area by:

- Sharing information about ambient air quality.
- Identifying and researching local air quality issues.
- Providing recommendations and information to the MECP and the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association.
- Informing the public of local air quality.

The CASA website provides the public with transparent and timely public access to real-

time air monitoring data. Visitors to cleanairsarniaandarea.com can view contaminant levels from air monitoring stations in the Sarnia and downriver area. Air quality information is refreshed every hour and users can clearly understand if the air quality is good, moderate, or poor compared to provincial standards. The site also includes an educational component about air monitoring stations, technology, and contaminants.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the air quality and extreme temperature initiatives are cost-share funded 70 percent provincially and 30 percent municipally, as approved within LPH's 2023 Health Protection Budget.

CONSULTATIONS

LPH staff work collaboratively with the County's Going Green Committee and community agencies to support and promote Air Quality Initiatives.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The County's Air Quality Initiatives are consistent with the missions, principles, and values identified in the County's Strategic Plan and support the value of the County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

LPH's Air Quality and Extreme Temperature Initiatives have proactively increased the public's protection and awareness of such health hazards. The partnerships and community engagement opportunities that LPH is involved in have provided effective opportunities to build capacity to address current and future air quality concerns.

Appendix "A"

Number of Special Air Quality Statements (SAQS) or Smog and Air Health Advisories (SAHA) 2012 - 2022

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alerts Issued	7	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	3	2	3
Total Duration (Days)	18	0	0	0	3	1	3.5	0	3	2	3

Appendix "B"

Cooling Centre Locations in Lambton County for 2023

Sarnia

West Lambton Community Health Centre
429 Exmouth St., Sarnia

The Inn of the Good Shepherd
115 John St., Sarnia

The Dow Centre for Youth – Sarnia Rebound (ages up to 24)
10 Lorne Cres., Sarnia

Sarnia-Lambton Rebound – The Hub (ages up to 24)
350 Indian Road S., Sarnia

Brooke-Alvinston

BAI Community Centre Complex
3310 Walnut St., Alvinston

Petrolia

Petrolia YMCA
360 Tank St., Petrolia

Lambton Shores

Grand Bend Community Health Centre
69 Main St. E., Grand Bend

North Lambton Community Health Centre
#3 - 59 King St., Forest

The Shores Recreation Centre
7883 Amtelecom Pkwy., Forest

Mooretown

Mooretown Sports Complex
1166 Emily St., Mooretown

Warwick Township

East Lambton Community Complex
61 Centennial Ave., Watford

Appendix "C"

**Number of Heat Warnings/Extended Heat Warnings and Cold Alerts
2012 - 2022**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Heat Warnings Issued	6	3	2	5	7	3	6	3	5	5	7
Total Duration (Days)	n/a	11	3	5	23	6	21	8	17	16	19
Cold Alerts Issued	0	2	10	8	5	2	4	5	0	2	5
Total Duration (Days)	0	2	27	26	6	2	7	9	0	23	7

	PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection Lori Lucas, Supervisor, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Vector-Borne Disease Program Update

BACKGROUND

The Ontario Public Health Standards require Boards of Health to have a Vector-Borne Disease (VBD) program in place to monitor, trace, and control vector-borne diseases of public health significance. Vector-borne diseases are transmitted by insects such as mosquitoes and ticks, which are responsible for illnesses such as West Nile virus (WNV) and Lyme disease.

The following report will summarize the 2022 results and program activities and provide an update on the VBD program planned for 2023. The most recent update on this program was provided to County Council through Committee A.M. report *Vector-Borne Disease Program Update* dated June 15, 2022.

DISCUSSION

West Nile Virus Surveillance, Prevention and Control:

In Ontario, there were a total of 23 confirmed WNV human cases in 2022. This is a slight increase from 18 cases in 2021 and a decrease from 70 cases in 2020. See Appendix "A" for the number of confirmed human cases in Ontario from 2012-2022. Ontario also saw a decrease in positive mosquito traps with 89 in 2022, 105 in 2021, and 171 in 2020. See Appendix "B" for the number of positive mosquito pools and human cases of West Nile Virus (Ontario) from 2012-2022.

WNV has been consistently detected in Lambton County since 2002. See Appendix "C" for WNV activity in Lambton County from 2012-2022.

Human, Mosquito and Wildlife Surveillance

There were no confirmed human cases of WNV reported in Lambton in 2022. There have been a total of seven lab-confirmed cases of WNV in Lambton County since 2012.

Adult mosquito surveillance took place over a 12-week period from July to September 2022. There was one WNV-positive mosquito trap identified in Lambton County in 2022. The positive mosquito trap was located in Forest.

Mosquito Control

Lambton County continued to monitor and treat catch basins with mosquito larvicide in 2022. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) was contracted to apply larvicide treatments to approximately 16,500 municipal catch basins under a pesticide permit. Three rounds of treatments were applied throughout the 2022 season. Round one was completed from June 27 to July 8, round two was completed from July 18 to July 29, and round three was completed from August 8 to August 18.

The municipal catch-basin larviciding program will continue in 2023. Pestalto Environmental Health Services has been contracted to administer the program applying three rounds of treatment throughout the 2023 season.

Standing Water Risk Assessment and Control

In addition to mosquito control measures, the department monitors standing water complaints and locations in accordance with the County of Lambton's Standing Water By-Law which regulates standing water on all properties from April 1 to October 31 annually. The Standing Water By-Law is a preventative measure to control mosquito populations before any treatments are required. In 2022, three standing water complaints were investigated.

Public Education

In 2022, a WNV information mail-out package was distributed to locations throughout the County including, veterinarians, long-term care facilities, community centers, daycares, golf courses, campgrounds, municipal offices, libraries, garden centers, occupational health nurses and physicians. Media releases were also issued throughout the season regarding activities and surveillance related to WNV including standing water complaints, mosquito trapping and larviciding.

Lyme Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Control:

Human Case Surveillance

Lambton Public Health (LPH) relies on physicians to request laboratory testing for those patients who present Lyme disease-like symptoms or those who have been exposed to a tick positive for *Borrelia burgdoferi*, the bacterium which causes Lyme disease. There were

five confirmed human cases of Lyme disease in Lambton County in 2022.

In Ontario, there were 1403 confirmed and probable human cases of Lyme disease reported in 2022; an incidence rate of 9.3 per 100,000. The 2021 incidence rate was 11.2 per 100,000 people; this is an increase from 2020 which had an incidence rate of 5.6 per 100,000. (Public Health Ontario, 2023)

Vector Surveillance

Both passive and active tick surveillance took place in 2022. Active tick surveillance, in the form of tick dragging, took place in 2022 with no ticks found. LPH intends to increase active surveillance efforts in 2023 to continue to monitor for black-legged tick populations in areas of Lambton County outside of Pinery Provincial Park and surrounding area. See Appendix "D" for the number of ticks collected (passive and active) from 2012-2022.

In 2021, for passive surveillance, members of the community were instructed to submit a photo of the tick to the website etick.ca. This website is a public platform that provides image-based identification and population monitoring of ticks in Canada. This website was developed in partnership with many different organizations including the Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Ontario. Through the etick website, the public can submit photos of the tick for identification by a professional. The identification results and other data, such as collection date and locality, can then be consulted and mapped so that all users may visualize the information related to any/all species for any given year and or geographical area. Access to etick.ca is free and it's not necessary to contribute data in order to consult the database.

Although the use of the etick platform was ideal during the pandemic when restrictions were in place, accessing local information proved to be challenging. For this reason, LPH developed a submission form through the LPH website. Similar to etick.ca, picture submissions can be made directly to LPH and Public Health Inspectors are able to identify the ticks for the public in a timely manner. Passive surveillance continues to be tracked and reported and helps identify new and potential emerging areas for black-legged ticks, which can be further assessed through active surveillance.

Lambton County is considered a risk area for Lyme disease with an established population of black-legged ticks in Pinery Provincial Park. See Appendix "E" for Lyme disease risk areas in Ontario. Active tick surveillance conducted at the Pinery Provincial Park in the fall of 2021 showed a significant increase in black-legged/deer ticks. The National Microbiology lab tested a sample of 60 ticks from the Pinery for a panel of tick-borne illnesses. Out of the ticks tested, 38% were found to be positive for the Lyme bacteria. Therefore, continued surveillance and education are very important to minimize the risk of contracting Lyme disease to the citizens and visitors of Lambton County. Increased active surveillance methods and public education carried out over several seasons will allow LPH to better monitor the prevalence of black-legged tick populations in Lambton County.

A number of factors may be responsible for the continued increase in the range of black-legged ticks in Ontario and in Lambton County. These factors include the expansion of their natural range aided in part by climate warming, lengthening summer and fall seasons, and possible changes in the range of their key hosts, such as deer and mice. All tick surveillance indicators suggest that the current range of black-legged tick populations is expanding and will likely continue to do so in the future (Public Health Ontario (PHO), 2018).

Public Education

With the increase in the tick population at Pinery Provincial Park and surrounding area and the percentage of positive ticks being greater than 20% (38%), LPH increased education and awareness activities focused in and around the high-risk area. A small working group was formed consisting of Public Health Inspectors, a Public Health Nurse in Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, a Public Health Nurse in Social Determinants of Health, as well as the program supervisor. This group identified key messages, media, and special events to attend to provide education. Seven separate events were attended with staff engaging nearly 1000 individuals.

Further, a mail-out of Lyme disease resources was distributed to the same facilities that the WNV package was sent to. Similarly, tick precautions were communicated through news ads, social media and media releases. Educational materials, including fact sheets, were also made available to the public. The mail-out to health care providers focused on a change in prophylactic recommendations for anyone who was at a risk area and had a tick attached for 24 hours or more.

2023 Vector-Borne Disease Program

For the 2023 season, LPH will continue with surveillance, control, and educational activities conducted in 2022. Due to the increased black-legged tick population identified at the Pinery Provincial Park through active surveillance in 2021 and considering the number of ticks that tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, LPH will continue to provide increased public education to the at-risk public on strategies to prevent tick bites and reduce the risk of contracting Lyme disease.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the VBD Program are cost-share funded 70 percent provincial and 30 percent municipal, as approved in LPH's 2023 Health Protection Budget.

CONSULTATIONS

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The VBD program is consistent with the missions, principles and values identified in the County's strategic plan and support the value of Lambton County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

Vector-borne diseases are transmitted by insects such as mosquitoes and ticks, which are responsible for illnesses such as WNV and Lyme disease. This report provides an update on the results of LPH's 2022 Vector-Borne Disease Program and provides an update on what is planned for 2023. For the 2023 season, LPH will continue with surveillance, control and educational activities to protect the public from the threat of West Nile virus and Lyme disease.

Appendix "A"
Number of Confirmed Human Cases of West Nile Virus 2012-2022

Year	Lambton	Ontario	Canada
2022	0	23	25
2021	0	18	35
2020	1	70	163
2019	0	19	45
2018	3	124	437
2017	1	153	202
2016	0	47	162
2015	0	29	84
2014	0	9	23
2013	0	50	114
2012	2	271	454
Total	7	813	1744

(LPH, PHO, and Public Health Agency of Canada surveillance data)

Appendix "B"
Number of Positive Mosquito Pools and Reported Confirmed and Probable Human Cases of West Nile Virus (Ontario)

Year	# Of Positive Pools	# Of Positive Humans
2022	89	23
2021	105	18
2020	171	70
2019	71	19
2018	305	124
2017	409	153
2016	211	47
2015	94	29
2014	56	9
2013	198	50
2012	457	271

(PHO Surveillance Data)

Appendix "C"

West Nile Virus Activity in Lambton County 2012-2022

Year	Human	Bird	Horse	Mosquito	Positive Mosquito Species
2022	0	0	0	1	Culex pipiens /
2021	0	0	0	2	Culex pipiens /
2020	1	0	0	2	Aedes Vexans Vexans
2019	0	0	0	1	Aedes Vexans Vexans
2018	3 (1 probable)	1	0	5	Cx. Restuans Cx.
2017	1	1	0	2	Cx. Restuans Cx.
2016	0	1	0	2	Cx. Restuans Cx. pipiens
2015	0	1	0	1	Cx. Restuans Cx. pipiens
2014	0	1	0	1	Cx. pipiens
2013	0	5	1	2	Cx. Restuans Cx. pipiens
2012	2 Petrolia-August Sarnia-September	4	0	7	Cx. Restuans Cx. pipiens
Total	7	14	1	26	

Appendix "D"

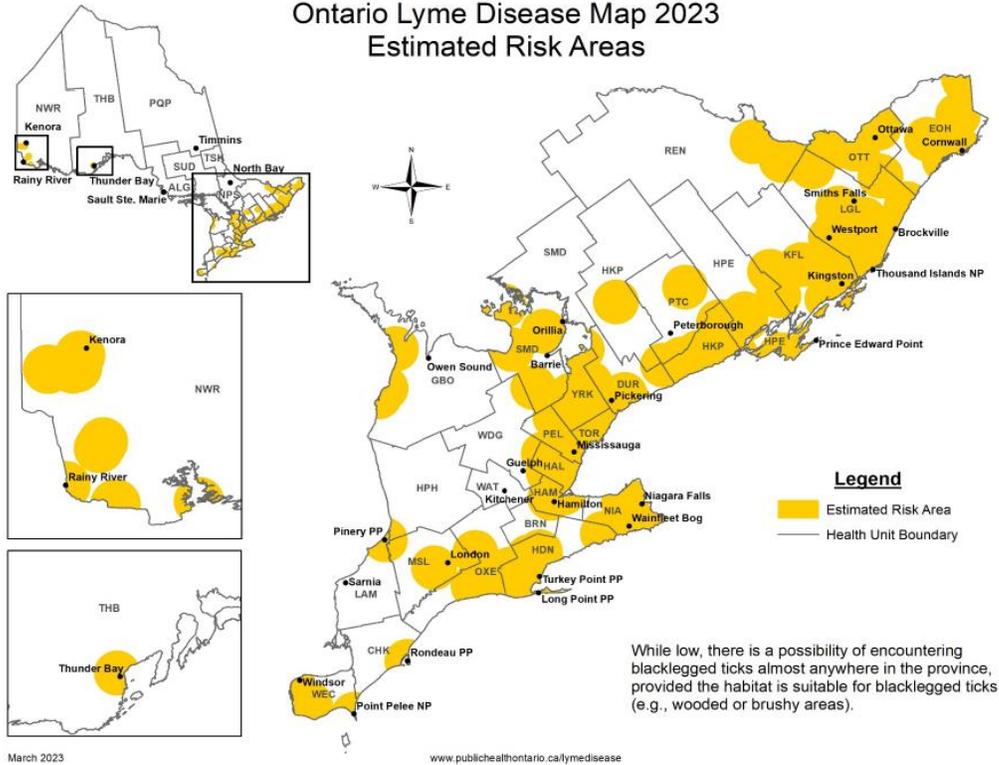
Ticks Collected in Lambton County (passive and active surveillance)

Year	<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> (American Dog Tick)	<i>Ixodes scapularis</i> (Black-legged Tick)	Other	Total
2022	114	13 0 Active surveillance	5	132
2021	Passive surveillance data not available	Passive surveillance data not available >150 (active surveillance)	N/A	>150
2020	Passive surveillance data not available	Passive surveillance data unavailable 0 (active surveillance)	N/A	N/A
2019	235	38 (passive surveillance)	8	273
2018	186	30 (passive surveillance)	8	224
2017	321	37 (passive surveillance)	3	361
2016	174	25 (24 active surveillance 49 total)	2	225
2015	336	26 (18 additional with Active Surveillance 44 total)	0	380
2014	117	27 (18 additional with Active Surveillance 45 total)	0	162
2013	178	5	1	184
2012	98	4	0	102

(LPH Data)

Appendix "E"
Ontario Lyme Disease Map 2023

**Ontario Lyme Disease Map 2023
 Estimated Risk Areas**



 <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION</p>	
REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Kevin Churchill, Manager, Clinical & Family Services Rhonda Galler, Supervisor Amy Rawlings, Health Promoter
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Oral Health and Vision Screening Program Update

BACKGROUND

As part of Lambton Public Health’s (LPH) school-based programs, staff conduct the Integrated Oral Health and Vision Screening Program as mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards. The program was interrupted when operations ceased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic response, which began in March 2020. In schools, oral health screenings resumed on January 17, 2023, and vision screenings resumed on February 2, 2023.

Staff last reported to the Board of Health (County Council) on this program through the *Integrated Oral Health and Vision Screening Program Committee Report* dated June 19, 2019.

DISCUSSION

Oral Health Screening

Oral screenings in schools are important for prevention and early identification of oral health problems. It is a short assessment by a regulated oral health care professional that can indicate the need for dental care. Oral screening is a low-risk procedure. The screenings are not considered to be treatment or a replacement for a complete dental examination, but rather are an observation of an individual’s teeth from which recommendations for further care can be made. When a child is identified as requiring care, parents and caregivers are notified that they should seek dental treatment. Families requiring financial assistance are connected with the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program, should they meet the program qualifications.

The Ontario Ministry of Health commits funds provincially to provide access to dental services for low-income children and youth 17 years of age and under. HSO is an integrated program that provides dental services to children in need of dental care. Urgent, non-urgent, and preventative care is provided through HSO. Eligibility criteria are variable for different services under the program. Ontario residency is required for all program services. Adjusted family net income of \$24,930 or less, for a family with one child, and \$1,887 extra for each additional child is required for core services (preventative and restorative), and a stated financial hardship, can determine eligibility for emergency dental services regardless of family income.

All publicly funded schools in Lambton County have participated in the provincially mandated Oral Health Screening Program since September 2011. These statistics represent oral health screenings completed between January 17, 2023, and April 27, 2023. Screenings will be ongoing until May 31, 2023. Out of 1,741 students eligible, 1,458 students were screened. The number of students screened represents 83.7% of eligible students in Junior Kindergarten (JK), Senior Kindergarten (SK), Grade two, and Grade seven classes in 14 publicly funded schools within Lambton County. Screening was conducted by a Registered Dental Hygienist and a Dental Assistant. Of the 14 schools screened, three (21.4%) were high-intensity schools, three (21.4%) were medium-intensity schools, and eight (57.2%) were low-intensity schools. Intensity is determined by the results among Grade two students.

In 2023, the number of students in all grades screened with urgent dental needs was 99. The number of students in all grades screened meeting clinical eligibility criteria for preventive services include: 298 (20.4%) eligible for topical fluoride, 16 (1.1%) eligible for pit and fissure sealants, and 91 (6.2%) eligible for scaling. The need for and urgency of dental care was recorded and parents were advised of the required follow-up. Children were referred to HSO, as appropriate.

Vision Screening

Vision screening is a non-invasive process that takes children through three simple eye tests. School vision screening is designed to identify children who may have concerns regarding vision, which could otherwise go undetected. Any issues identified result in a referral to an Optometrist to complete a comprehensive eye examination. Families are informed that annual eye examinations by Optometrists are covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for children aged 0-19 in Ontario.

LPH implemented the Oral Health and Vision Screening program for students registered in senior kindergarten beginning on January 17, 2023, with the final screening scheduled for completion on June 9, 2023.

In February 2023, two Health Promoters were trained and assigned to implement the Vision Screening program. Additionally, several internal staff members have been trained to assist with screenings. Oral health screenings are completed by Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants.

Of the 512 senior kindergarten students enrolled in the schools visited by LPH to date (between February 2, 2023, and April 27, 2023), vision screening was completed on 479 students, representing 93.6% of eligible students. Screenings will be ongoing until June 9, 2023. Further analysis of the screening findings will be completed once the school year is finished.

Anecdotally, many parents have expressed gratitude for the program, as the follow-up eye exam identified that their child required glasses or had other concerns which need to be monitored over the course of the year. Several principals and teachers have indicated appreciation for this program as they are noting vision concerns in their classrooms.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with both the Oral Health and Vision Screening Programs are approved within the 2023 LPH's Clinical & Family Services budget.

CONSULTATIONS

Local Optometrists, Local Dental Professionals, and Boards of Education were all consulted in the delivery of Oral Health and Vision Screening Programs. LPH continues to work in partnership with local care providers.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Oral Health and Vision Screening Program is consistent with the LPH Strategic Priority of Healthy Child and Youth Development, focusing on early identification of oral health and vision problems that can often be corrected when detected early.

CONCLUSION

The reintroduction of the Oral Health and Vision Screening Programs following the COVID-19 pandemic response has been successful. The LPH dental team reached 29% of schools in four months and is scheduled to reach a goal of 45.8% after five months when screenings are completed on May 31, 2023. The LPH vision team reached 55.3% of schools in three months, and is scheduled to reach a goal of 78% after five months when screenings are completed on June 9, 2023. Oral health and vision screening occurred in a shortened window this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic response delaying program start dates.

LPH will continue to spread awareness of the importance of dental and vision screening for school-aged children and assist parents and caregivers in navigating vision services to increase access to care. By doing so, the program is expected to help more children in Lambton County achieve their optimal oral and visual health.



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	LAMBTON PUBLIC HEALTH
PREPARED BY:	Chad Ikert, Manager, Health Protection
REVIEWED BY:	Andrew Taylor, General Manager Stéphane Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Health Protection – 2023 First Quarter Activity Report

BACKGROUND

The Health Protection service area provides legislated public health programs, in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards. Health Protection protects the public’s health by ensuring safe water (drinking and recreational) and safe food handling practices as well as investigating health hazard complaints. Other programs include infectious diseases prevention and control including rabies and tuberculosis prevention and control; public health emergency management, which includes COVID-19 response; and vector-borne disease control activities including West Nile virus and Lyme Disease.

The Health Protection service areas also include the provision of clinical services for immunization including routine immunizations, school immunizations and the Universal Flu Shot program. Enforcement of numerous public health regulations and County By-Laws, including the Standing Water and DineSafe Lambton By-Laws.

The COVID-19 Pandemic response has been a priority for service for the last three years. In 2023, Lambton Public Health (LPH) continues to provide response activities required to control COVID-19 including outbreak management, vaccine delivery, and ongoing work to support infection control and safety within the community.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton (County) with an update on programs and activities administered by the Health Protection service area of LPH in the first quarter of 2023.

DISCUSSION

Highlights:

- 2023 low-cost rabies clinics were confirmed with seven clinics planned: Two in March, three in April, and two in May.

- In-person LPH food handler courses resumed after being paused during the pandemic. Three in-person courses were offered in Q1.
- Immunization reminder letters were mailed to all high school students who were due or overdue for routine vaccines in early February. Reminder letters for elementary school students will be mailed in late May.
- Beginning in February, catch-up immunization clinics were held at each high school and at LPH main office.

Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q1 Actuals
Reportable Disease Investigations	547 investigations - 8 enteric, 1 vector-borne, 530 respiratory (496 of which were COVID-19), 8 other
Institutional Outbreak Investigations	22 investigations (15 respiratory outbreaks, 7 enteric outbreaks)
Infection Control Inspections	82 inspections (including 28 daycares, 28 personal service settings, 20 group homes, 4 long-term care facilities, 2 congregate living settings)
Infection Prevention and Control Complaint Investigations	5 investigations

Immunization and School Health Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q1 Actuals
Grade 7 Immunization Clinics	71 vaccinations given at 2 school clinics
Routine and Catch-up Immunization Clinics	1296 vaccinations given at 19 clinics
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics	1883 doses of COVID-19 vaccine given by LPH at 23 LPH community clinics and 4 LPH mobile clinics

Environmental Health Team Activities:

Activity	2023 Q1 Actuals
Food Premise Inspections	169 inspections (including 147 routine inspections, 9 re-inspections, 7 pre-operational, and 6 Healthy Menu Choices Act)
Recreational Water Inspections	13 inspections (including 9 pools and 4 spas)
Food Handler Training Course	3 LPH courses with 52 attendees becoming certified
Food Safety Complaint Investigations	28 investigations
Rabies Investigations	46 investigations with rabies post-exposure prophylaxis being administered to 6 individuals
Health Hazard Investigations	18 investigations related to mould, pests, sewage, and sanitation

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs associated with the Health Protection programs are included in the approved 2023 LPH budget, which is cost-shared with the province at 30% municipal and 70% provincial. Some Health Protection programs are eligible to receive 100% provincial grants for infection prevention and control hub coordination, and student Public Health Inspector practicums.

CONSULTATIONS

In the preparation of this report, the Supervisors of Health Protection were consulted where necessary.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The programs, services and activities delivered by Health Protection staff are consistent with the missions, principles and values identified in the County's strategic plan and support the value of the County as a healthy community.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an update on programs and activities administered by the Health Protection team in the first quarter of 2023. These programs and services make a vital contribution to maintaining a safe and healthy community for all Lambton Residents.

**SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION**

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PREPARED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Valerie Colasanti, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
INFORMATION ITEM:	Housing and Homelessness Hub

BACKGROUND

There have been significant changes in the County of Lambton community since the *County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan 2020-2024* was approved. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a huge increase in the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Lambton County. This increase led to changes in many aspects of service delivery and new initiatives to better meet the increased needs of those experiencing homelessness. Council has received several Information Reports from 2021-2023 on these various initiatives.

This report will inform Council of a new pilot program being undertaken by the Social Services Division, Homelessness Prevention team. The Homelessness Prevention team is to open a low-barrier, multidisciplinary and multiagency day program within a new Housing and Homelessness Hub, (the "HH Hub"). Currently, those experiencing homelessness in Lambton County have limited choices in the places available to them to spend their time during the afternoon hours. The HH Hub, with a dedicated day program, presents an opportunity to better engage this population and to move them along the housing continuum. The purpose of the HH Hub will be to provide individuals and families with a centralized location that will offer responsive, low-barrier professional support services, including an opportunity to access resources such as mental health supports and healthcare, access required identification, complete housing applications, complete income tax returns and participate in workshops on various topics.

DISCUSSION

Working with community partners, the County of Lambton, Homelessness Prevention team will take the lead on creating a pilot program to open the HH Hub that will offer day programming from the former Laurel-Lea St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church at 837 Exmouth Street in Sarnia. Council will recall this site was used through the winter of 2023

as an overflow emergency homeless shelter operated by the County's partner, the Inn of the Good Shepherd. The overflow shelter has closed for the summer months and will resume in the fall of 2023, if needed. Upon closure, all individuals who used this overflow site were able to be accommodated in long-term housing, transitional housing or through space at the Good Shepherd's Lodge.

The HH Hub will have a "soft" opening on Monday, June 5, 2023, and the pilot program will run through to March 2024. The HH Hub will operate from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. These hours may change as needs are assessed and the best time of day to offer programming is determined. Two caseworkers from the Social Services Division will be onsite while the HH Hub is open. Additionally, staff from various community partner organizations will be onsite at the HH Hub, including Lambton County's Public Health Services Division, which will offer multidisciplinary supports, in a low-barrier, welcoming space for clients.

The HH Hub is a drop-in location with programming designed to meet the needs of individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. Visitors to the HH Hub can access snacks, restrooms, some clothing, quiet spaces for daytime rest as well as computers and phones. Other services available include:

- assistance with completing housing applications;
- search and apply for affordable housing;
- information and referrals to outside services;
- connecting individuals to income support;
- liaison with Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program and income supports;
- support in obtaining identification;
- support in completing income tax;
- access to harm reduction services;
- access to mental health and healthcare professionals;
- access to information and workshops on various topics; and
- Community Paramedic Program.

Program delivery was designed in consultation with individuals with lived experience of homelessness who form the A Better Tomorrow Committee. In addition, Social Services Division staff explored best practices and noted success in other communities across Canada where similar low-barrier programs have been implemented. The approach to program delivery will be through a wrap-around, person-centred, housing first, trauma-informed model of care that creates a safe and inclusive space for clients experiencing homelessness to access critical supports.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial impact on the County budget because of this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with members of the County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the General Manager, Social Services, the Manager, Children's Services and Homelessness Prevention, the Manager, Ontario Works, the County of Lambton Public Health Services Division staff, and the A Better Tomorrow Committee. Consultations with community service providers will be ongoing throughout implementation of this pilot program.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The creation of the HH Hub supports the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Advocating in a manner that raises the profile of the County and its needs in order to secure improved government supports, funding, grants, and other resources.
- Developing programs and initiatives that address poverty reduction and promote social belonging.
- Planning for and responding to the ever-changing needs of an aging population, homelessness and retaining young people in the community while supporting their transition to being employed community members and future leaders.
- Actively pursuing joint opportunities with community partners that contribute to the well-being of the Lambton community.

CONCLUSION

The Homelessness Prevention team will work closely with community partners to open a low-barrier, multidisciplinary and multiagency Housing and Homelessness Hub that provides day programs for individuals experiencing homelessness. Following best practice, the goal of the program is to provide these individuals with wrap around support and a safe space to access critical resources they may otherwise have difficulty accessing. Utilizing a holistic approach that offers these individuals with a pathway to permanent housing, and access to professional supports as required, will improve outcomes for people in need of housing and the community as a whole. The HH Hub will operate as a pilot program at 837 Exmouth Street in Sarnia with outcomes and targets being developed and measured to determine if the HH Hub should continue following the end of this pilot program in March 2024. Council will receive a report with the full evaluation in the fall of 2024.

MINUTES

LAMBTON SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Room 1, Wyoming Administration Building

February 28, 2023

Present: Councillor Dan Sageman, Jeanette Douglas, Heather Childs, Mary Lynne McCallum, Bill Weber, Cathy Martin, Sherri Hamilton, Lois Lafond, Jamie Dillon, Arlene Patterson, Anita Trusler (COL Staff/recorder)

Regrets: Maggie Eastman

1. Call to Order/ Welcome & Introductions

J. Dillon/C. Martin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Dan Sageman: Deputy Mayor of Lambton Shores and appointed as County Council representative for the Seniors' Advisory Committee.

Jeannette Douglas: Representative for Brooke-Alvinston with interest in identifying rural needs related to transportation and access to services.

Sherry Hamilton: Representative for the Town of Petrolia. New to the area but served as past chair of Tilsonburg Transit Advisory Committee and involved with seniors through local church. Strong interest in transportation needs.

Lois Lafond: Representative for the Village of Point Edward. Ten-year resident of Point Edward and involved with Anglican church where many seniors attend. Understands the needs of seniors and the need to take care of seniors and ensure supports will be in place in the years to come when we will need them.

Cathy Martin: Representative for Village of Oil Springs. Lifelong resident of Lambton County and retiree of County of Lambton Library Services. Was POA for care for family members and understands the needs of aging individuals. Worked with Health Council in a research role when she first graduated from university.

Arlene Patterson: Co-founder and representative for Navigating Senior Care Lambton (NSCL). NSCL brought the proposal for a Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) to County Council in 2019. NSCL have done extensive work in advocating

for seniors needs (legal, in-home supports, etc.). Retired social worker for MCSS and involved with Sarnia District Labour Council

Jamie Dillon: Representative for the City of Sarnia. Has four grandchildren, retired at 59, travelled globally for Shell and built refineries worldwide. Both father and father-in-law lived into their 90s. Concerned with needs of seniors in our community

Mary Lynne McCallum: Representative for the Township of Enniskillen and serves on municipal council. Lifelong resident of Enniskillen and wants to be a voice for seniors. Interested in rural needs and access to services.

Heather Childs: Representative for Township of Dawn-Euphemia. Interested in rural needs, distance to services, and need for transportation supports. Was also involved in painting the barn quilts in Dawn-Euphemia.

Bill Weber: Representative for Municipality of Lambton Shores and has lived in Lambton County for 22 years. Served on Lambton Shores Council for the last 22 years, including the last 12 as mayor. Interest includes communication, transportation, and access to care in rural areas of Lambton County.

2. Approval of the Agenda

#1: L. Lafond/S. Hamilton: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried.

3. Seniors' Advisory Committee – Orientation and Background

A. Patterson provided a brief history that NSCL received grant funding four years ago to conduct seniors focus groups throughout Lambton County and engage with people from rural communities who lack services. NSCL wrote a report "Hearing Our Voices" which was the foundation for a report to County Council that recommended the need for a senior's council.

Discussion related to seniors needs in Lambton County and mandate of this Committee:

A. Patterson: Predominant learning was how seniors lack the willingness to have a plan as they age and the reluctance to talk about planning for aging. Would like this committee to help drive the conversation about planning for future needs. Has worked with many seniors to help plan for downsizing and care needs and emphasized that it is important to allow seniors to make their own decisions. NSCL do a lot of advocacy work based on observed and identified needs and

have concerns about how seniors are treated and identified. Would like to see more seniors engaged in the community and have a sense of purpose.

B. Weber: A communication plan is needed to determine the best way to get the message out to seniors about available resources. There are many services available that people do not know about.

A. Patterson: Suggest education sessions where we can work with FHTs and other organizations to identify outreach opportunities. This committee can help to identify needs and help to inform an education and communication plan.

L. Lafond: Mother lived in same house for 60 years and the family had to have a purposeful conversation to get her to get the supports she needed. How can we make the choice to stay at home easier for seniors? Difficult for seniors to admit that help is needed due to fears of losing independence. This committee can help seniors realize that it is okay to have the conversations.

A. Patterson: Reality is that we live in a reactive society and wait until an individual can no longer climb stairs. We need to look back at earlier opportunities to downsize, plan, etc. Need some markers related to “what is your plan” and “what might assistance look like”? This committee can support conversations and education on how to plan for aging and future needs.

J. Douglas: Can we encourage LEO and other organizations to bring education opportunities to seniors that connect with their programs.

J. Dillon: Acknowledged that the discussion hits home given experience when father and father-in-law both died within two months of each other, and most challenging process was cleaning out their homes. RBC used to have a great program called “Circle of Life” to help people plan. How can this committee help people who do not have a family member to support them?

S. Hamilton: Hearing a thread in this discussion and need to connect with media. Additionally, can we make a point to have some guest speakers from LEO, or Alzheimer Society attend a committee meeting so that we can learn the best approach when talking to seniors?

M. McCallum: Are there opportunities to consult with organizations like LEO (and other service providers) to understand services, scheduling processes, etc. Would like to learn the process of how they work to better understand the services available to our community and connect seniors to these services.

L. Lafond: Television and radio are great communication platforms for seniors. Can we work on creating a platform to address the issues identified?

B. Weber: This comes back to communication, how many facilities, groups and volunteers are already available, including 211 and www.agefriendlyarnialambton.ca to navigate services and how can this committee promote these channels?

D. Sageman: Shared that his own parents are in their seventies and this conversation is resonating with his personal family experience. Good discussion.

L. Lafond: Communication needs to be a priority. Can we make this a priority and let the community know that this Committee exists and have a process for engagement moving forward?

B. Weber: Recommended the County issue a press release to inform the community of the new SAC. Also suggested we invite community members have a mechanism to connect with committee members.

4. Draft Terms of Reference – review & discussion

Draft terms of reference reviewed with the following recommended revisions:

- Membership to include Indigenous representation.
- Meetings to be held every other month during 2023 to allow time to establish the new committee of council.

#2: A. Patterson/J. Dillon: That the draft terms of reference be approved with the recommended revisions.

Carried.

#3: M. McCallum/C. Martin: That B. Weber be appointed as Chair.

Carried.

#4: C. Martin/ L. Lafond: That M. McCallum be appointed as Vice-Chair.

Carried.

5. 2023 Meeting Schedule

#5: S. Hamilton/ L. Lafond: That the SAC meet the fourth Tuesday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Wyoming Administration Building (with a remote meeting link available).

Carried.

6. Next steps/action items

A. Trusler will schedule 2023 meetings and create a project management folder where SAC documents can be shared with Committee members.

A. Trusler will follow-up with Lisa Leggate, Communications Specialist for the County of Lambton, to draft a news release and communication plan for the SAC.

A. Trusler to revise the draft terms of reference to include recommended revisions.

7. Adjournment

6: L. Lafond/ S. Hamilton: That this meeting be adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Carried.



FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION
PREPARED BY:	Larry Palarchio, CPA, CMA, General Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	June 7, 2023
SUBJECT:	Deputy Treasurer Appointment

BACKGROUND

Due to the recent retirement of Nancy King, the role of Deputy Treasurer has become vacant.

Ms. Stephanie Harper, a CPA, has been employed in the Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division as the Manager, Divisional Support Services since August, 2019. Ms. Harper will continue to retain all her duties as the Manager, Divisional Support Services with the addition of those duties assigned to her as Deputy Treasurer.

The Deputy Treasurer will assist the County Treasurer in the management of all financial affairs of the County including:

- a) assuming the duties of the County Treasurer in their absence;
- b) working with the County Treasurer in developing and recommending financial and related policies;
- c) preparing reports and presentations for Standing Committees and Council meetings, and attend those meetings in the absence of the County Treasurer;
- d) taking a leadership role in the year-end audit and contributing to financial reporting for internal and external stakeholders.

Accordingly, this report advises Council of the Deputy Treasurer appointment and seeks Council's endorsement through the enactment of a new By-Law.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the *Municipal Act, 2001* (the “Act”), municipalities are required to appoint a Treasurer who is responsible for the handling of all financial affairs of the municipality. Section 286 (2) of the Act, also provides that a municipality may appoint a Deputy Treasurer. The role of the Deputy Treasurer is to assist the County Treasurer in the management of all financial affairs of the County and assume the duties of County Treasurer in their absence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the subject matter of this report.

CONSULTATIONS

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That the appointment of Stephanie Harper as Deputy Treasurer of The Corporation of the County of Lambton be endorsed.
- b) That By-Law No. 20 of 2004 being “A By-Law Appointing a Deputy Treasurer for The Corporation of the County of Lambton”, be hereby repealed.
- c) That the appropriate By-Law be presented to County Council for its consideration.

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE A.M.**

(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services/Cultural Services)

May 17, 2023

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair I. Veen, Warden, Kevin Marriott, and Members J. Agar, D. Boushy, T. Case and D. Sageman attended in person. Member A. Broad attended virtually. Various staff were present including the following General Managers: Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services; Mr. A. Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services; Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services; Mr. R. Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk; and Mr. S. Thiffault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

M. Bradley and B. White. M. Bradley joined the meeting for the in-camera session.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#1: Agar/Sageman: That the following Information Reports from the Infrastructure and Development Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Building Services 1st Quarter 2023 Statistics.
- b) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Planning and Development services 1st Quarter Work in Progress.
- c) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Planning and Development Services 1st Quarter Statistics and Approval Authority Activity.
- d) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding County Road 7 (Lakeshore Road) – Road Rehabilitation.

Carried.

Committee A.M. – May 17, 2023 (page 2)

Report(s) Requiring a Motion

Report dated May 17, 2023, Regarding County Official Plan Comprehensive Review

#2: Case/Marriott: That County Council:

- a) Direct County Planning Staff to launch the County Official Plan review (Growth 2.0) in accordance with the outlined Terms of Reference.
- b) Authorize the inclusion of a \$350,000 multi-year budget for the County Official Plan as a separate budget line in the Planning & Development Services budget.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

OTHER BUSINESS

Staffing at Lambton Public Health

Councillor Case enquired about the status of the staff that was hired to assist during the pandemic and related staffing levels.

Lambton Public Health Advertising of Rabies Vaccine Clinics

Councillor Broad enquired about advertising activities for the low-cost rabies clinics offered by Lambton Public Health, which he felt led to lower attendance numbers.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#3: Sageman/Boushy: That the following Information Reports from the Cultural Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Lambton County Library Joint Library Facilities Review.
- b) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Libraries Frist Quarter 2023 Statistics
- c) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Museums, Gallery & Archives First Quarter 2023 Statistics.

Carried.

Committee A.M. – May 17, 2023 (page 3)

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated May 17, 2023, Regarding Libraries Donations, January 1 to March 31, 2023

#4: Case/Sageman: That Libraries Donations, January 1 to March 31, 2023 Report be accepted.

Carried.

Report dated May 17, 2023, Regarding Museums, Gallery & Archives Collections Management, March 2023

#5: Agar/Boushy: That the Museums, Gallery & Archives Collections Management March 2023 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Lambton Heritage Museum Re-Opening

Andrew Meyer, Cultural Services Division General Manager, reminded the Committee of the invitation for the grand re-opening of the Lambton Heritage Museum scheduled for June 2, 2023.

IN-CAMERA

#6: Boushey/Case: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss the following:

- a) To consider and provide instructions pertaining to a) an identifiable individual, b) the potential disposition of lands in the City of Sarnia, c) the potential acquisition of lands (and/or lease) in the City of Sarnia, and any position to be taken in the negotiations thereof, pursuant to ss. 239(2) (b), (c) and (k) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

Carried.

#7: Motion dealt with In-Camera.

#8: Sageman/Boushy: That the Chair declare the Committee go back into Open Session.
Carried.

Committee A.M. – May 17, 2023 (page 4)

Adjournment

#9: Case/SageMan: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 9:39 a.m.

Ian Veen
Chair

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE P.M.**

(Long-Term Care/Corporate Services/Finance, Facilities and Court Services/Social Services)

May 17, 2023

A meeting was held in Council Chambers at 11:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair D. Ferguson and Members G. Atkinson, B. Hand, Warden K. Marriott attended in person. Members C. McRoberts and Alternate Member J. Field attended virtually. Various staff were also present including the following: Ms. J. Joris, General Manager, Long-Term Care; Ms. S. Harper, Manager/Deputy Treasurer, Divisional Support Services, Finance, Facilities and Court Services; Ms. V. Colasanti, General Manager, Social Services; Mr. R. Beauchamp, Deputy Clerk; and, Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

B. Dennis.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest: None.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Reports

#1: Miller/Hand: That the following Information Reports from the Long-Term Care Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*, Changes to Ontario Regulation 246/22.
- b) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding LTC Quality Initiative Report 2022.
- c) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Travelling Day Program.

Carried.

Other Business

North Lambton Lodge is hosting a family barbeque on August 10, 2023, at 5 pm. Tickets must be purchased prior to August 2nd.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Committee P.M. – May 17, 2023 (page 2)

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated May 17, 2023, Regarding Amendment to 2023 Services and Fees Schedule to Increase Building Inspection and By-Law Enforcement Fees

#2: Atkinson/Cook:

- (a) That the chargeable rate for "Building Inspection and By-Law Enforcement" services rendered to Lambton County Lower-Tier Municipalities set out on page 4 of 27 in Schedule "A" of By-Law No. 7 of 2023, found under the subject heading "Building Services Department", be increased from \$65.00 per hour, plus the mileage rate as set by the County Council, to \$70.00 per hour, plus the mileage rate as set by the County Council, effective July 1, 2023.
- (b) That the appropriate By-Law amending By-Law No. 7 of 2023 be presented to County Council to implement the revised chargeable rate for the services described in paragraph (a) above.

Carried.

FINANCE, FACILITIES AND COURT SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#3: Cook/Field: That the following Information Reports dated May 17, 2023, from the Finance Facilities and Court Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Court Services 1st Quarter 2023 Statistics and Activity.
- b) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Usage.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Information Reports

#4: Miller/Hand: That the following Information Reports dated May 17, 2023, from the Social Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Employment Services Transformation Update.

Committee P.M. – May 17, 2023 (page 3)

- b) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Housing Services Statistical Report 2022 SMAIR.
- c) Information Report dated May 17, 2023, regarding Housing Services Statistical Report 2023 Q1.

Carried.

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated May 17, 2023, Regarding Housing Services Department Staff

#5: Atkinson/Cook: That Council approve the hiring of two full-time permanent staff positions as follows:

- a) One Access Coordinator.
- b) One Tenant Relations Worker.

Carried.

IN-CAMERA

No In-Camera items.

ADJOURNMENT

#6: Cook/Field: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 11:03 a.m.

Ian Veen
Chair

Ryan Beauchamp
Deputy Clerk