

alPHa Resolution A18-5

TITLE: **A Comprehensive Approach to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) in Regulated Health Professional Settings**

SPONSOR: **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit**

WHEREAS comprehensive IPAC practices in regulated health professional workplaces are essential to prevent blood borne disease transmission; and

WHEREAS most regulated health professionals do not receive comprehensive training in IPAC during their professional training; and

WHEREAS the regulatory colleges of health professionals lack a provincially supported mandate to proactively audit IPAC practices or to investigate complaints of infection control lapses in the settings of their members; and

WHEREAS in 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care amended the *Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Practices Complaints Protocol* and released the new *Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Lapse Disclosure* guidance document with a new requirement for Boards of Health to actively investigate public complaints related to IPAC in regulated health professional settings and to publicly disclose on the findings; and

WHEREAS the number of IPAC complaints in regulated health professional settings has been increasing substantially since 2015; and

WHEREAS boards of health have limited resources to investigate IPAC complaints in regulated health professional settings; and

WHEREAS regulated health professionals often question the expertise of Boards of Health when investigating IPAC complaints;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommend to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development that a legislative and policy framework be developed to achieve the following:

- 1) That regulated health professional training programs offered by Ontario colleges and universities contain comprehensive IPAC content within their curriculum; and
- 2) That the Ontario regulatory colleges of health professions implement continuous quality improvement through mandatory education and a move toward the routine inspection of their members' practice settings for adherence to IPAC best practices, and that they also provide a robust response in collaboration with local Boards of Health to IPAC complaints; and
- 3) That provincially recognized core competencies and qualification requirements be identified for local public health practitioners regarding the prevention, investigation and mitigation of IPAC lapses; and

- 4) That base funding be sufficiently enhanced for the role of Boards of Health to respond to the increasing demands of IPAC complaints and lapses; and
- 5) That the Province of Ontario provides funds to support any extraordinary costs to Boards of Health in responding to such increased demands.

AND FURTHER that the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, the Ontario Assistant Deputy Minister of the Population and Public Health Division, all Ontario regulated health professional colleges, and the Ontario Public Health Association be so advised.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE:

Resolution CARRIED AS AMENDED