

alPHa's members are  
the public health units  
in Ontario.

**alPHa Sections:**

Boards of Health  
Section

Council of Ontario  
Medical Officers of  
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate  
Organizations:**

Association of Ontario  
Public Health Business  
Administrators

Association of  
Public Health  
Epidemiologists  
in Ontario

Association of  
Supervisors of Public  
Health Inspectors of  
Ontario

Health Promotion  
Ontario

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Nursing  
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in  
Public Health

March 13, 2018

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
393 University Ave,  
21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2M2

Dear Dr. Williams,

**Re: 2016 Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health**

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On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and its member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations, I am writing to express our appreciation and congratulations for your 2016 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly, *Improving the Odds: Championing Health Equity in Ontario*.

We agree that all Ontarians should have the same opportunity to achieve optimal health irrespective of circumstance, and we agree that the public health sector has a crucial role to play in generating the conditions that will make this so.

As you observe throughout this report, there are many challenges to truly achieving health equity, and it will require a dedicated, multi-sectoral effort to meet them. Public health is indeed well-situated to lead such an effort, as health equity has long been recognized by our sector as the upstream solution to a multitude of downstream problems.

With the addition of the Health Equity Standard to the 2018 Ontario Public Health Standards and the related mandate to bring the population health perspective to the broader health system, we believe that there is an important opportunity before us to make far more substantial strides in the near term.

We therefore fully support your recommendations, which call on the government to support and invest in a system-wide approach to assessing the impact of health inequities, developing partnerships, and implementing interventions that will improve the odds of good health for all Ontarians.

Taking an "outbreak approach" to reducing inequities is an apt and creative framing of our activities, and we look forward to applying and sharing our expertise as we continue to champion health equity in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,



Carmen McGregor  
alPHa President

**COPY:** Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario; Hon. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care; Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care, Population and Public Health Division.