

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

September 22, 2023

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
21st Floor, 393 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M5G 2M

Dear Dr. Moore,

Re: Next Steps - Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and its Boards of Health Section, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, and Affiliate Associations, we are writing to you as a follow up to our [letter](#) to the Minister of Health, the Hon. Sylvia Jones, and to thank you for your recent briefings with alPHa members regarding the public health funding and capacity announcement.

As you are aware, alPHa represents all of Ontario's 34 boards of health, medical officers and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health leaders in each of the public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology, and business administration. Our members have considerable expertise to offer and we look forward to working in partnership regarding:

- the reviewing of the Ontario Public Health Standards, including the roles and responsibilities of public health units;
- establishing the criteria that will help discussions at a local public health level regarding potential mergers of local public health agencies; and
- providing input on a funding approach that is stable, predictable, protected, and sufficient for the full delivery of all public health programs and services.

We appreciate that the members of our COMOH Section Executive Committee are already participating in the activities of the Public Health Leadership Table, which is leading these discussions. Given that they represent only one part of our organization, we are also requesting that consideration be given to include the balance of the alPHa Executive Committee and the Executive Director. This would ensure that the voices of our Boards of Health and Affiliate Organizations are represented as well.

We are ready and willing to support the government's goal of strengthening the Ontario public health system's capacity to improve population health in all of Ontario's communities through the effective and efficient local delivery of evidence-based public health programs and services.

We look forward to working with you further and request your direction in the near future regarding the approach to be followed with participation from Boards of Health and senior leadership from local public health units. To schedule a meeting, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 647-325-9594.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wess Garrod". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wess" and last name "Garrod" clearly distinguishable.

Wess Garrod,
alPHa Vice-President

Copy: Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the CMOH