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October 1, 2026

Carmen McGregor

PO Box 73510,
RPO Wychwood
Toronto, Ontario M6C 4A7

Dear Carmen,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Working Drafts and the importance of supporting boards of health (BoHs) and public health units (PHUs) as they prepare for implementation of the 2027 OPHS, anticipated for January 1, 2027.

The Ministry of Health (ministry) recognizes the importance of providing timely information to support BoHs and PHUs in their planning for implementation of the 2027 OPHS. Following the July 22, 2026 release of the remaining OPHS Working Drafts, the ministry shared an information deck with the sector on August 25, 2026 outlining the key changes to the standards. The ministry is also planning to hold a session for PHUs to review the updates included in the latest release of the Working Drafts. Ministry program areas will also continue Standard-specific discussions with PHU counterparts throughout the fall through existing networks and groups.

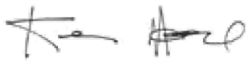
The ministry welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) to support the onboarding and orientation of board of health members. In particular, alPHa's "Boards of Health: Shared Resources" webpage provides useful information members as they familiarize themselves with their governance roles and responsibilities. We encourage alPHa to continue working with the ministry to help keep resources available, such as the Orientation Manual for Boards of Health, current, accurate and aligned with the applicable legislative and policy requirements, including the revised OPHS.

Under both the current and the forthcoming 2027 OPHS, boards of health are responsible for supporting members in understanding their roles and responsibilities and staying informed of emerging issues and trends. This includes developing and implementing a comprehensive orientation plan for new board members and a continuing education program for board members.

The transition to the revised OPHS presents an opportunity to build on these existing requirements and strengthen the supports available to boards of health, particularly for members beginning new terms in 2027. The ministry welcomes continued collaboration with alPHa to identify resources and learning opportunities that support boards in fulfilling their governance responsibilities.

We appreciate alPHa's ongoing commitment to supporting Ontario's boards of health and public health units as they prepare for implementation of the 2027 OPHS.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health

Attachments

C: Loretta Ryan, Chief Financial Officer, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
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