

InfoBreak

ALPHA's members' portal



Mar-Apr 2026



Key Highlights

- Thank you for your strong participation at the February Winter Symposium—your engagement keeps ALPHA connected to what matters most across Ontario.
- Planning is underway for our 2026 AGM & Conference (in-person, June 8–10, 2026) at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown on the Harbourfront.
- We are also preparing for the AMO Conference in August as an important opportunity to influence municipal and provincial leaders.
- Spring is provincial budget season; ALPHA Staff are monitoring developments closely and will keep members updated.
- We expect to hear next steps soon on the provincial public health funding review.

Thank you: Winter Symposium (February 11–13)

Thank you to everyone who participated in February's Winter Symposium. The strong turnout and thoughtful questions reinforced the value of coming together to hear the latest updates on major issues affecting local public health.

I also want to recognize ALPHA Staff, speakers, and partners for the quality of the program and the practical insights shared. Your contributions help ensure members have timely information to support local planning, decision-making, and actions.

Looking ahead: 2026 ALPHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Conference (June 8–10, 2026, Toronto)

Preparations are already underway for our annual in-person AGM & Conference this June at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown, located along the Harbourfront. Registration for the event will launch in mid-April.

This conference is a key opportunity to strengthen relationships across the sector, learn from peers and partners and advance a shared narrative about the measurable value of local public health in Ontario. More program and registration details will be shared as these are finalized.

Next advocacy window: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference (August 2026)

AMO is planning its conference in August, which is another important opportunity for alPHA to engage municipal and provincial leaders. These conversations remain essential to reinforcing that local public health is not only an essential part of the health system, but also a key contributor to community well-being and economic resilience in all 444 municipalities across Ontario.

Provincial budget season: Monitoring and Member updates

Spring budget deliberations are a critical decision window. alPHA Staff will monitor budget announcements and related policy signals closely and will keep the Membership informed of relevant updates and implications for local public health.

Strategic focus: Demonstrating measurable impact

Strategically, alPHA continues to focus on demonstrating public health's measurable impacts on population health—impacts that also support Ontario's economic strength, particularly in a period of economic uncertainty and increasing risk. This means continuing to communicate in the language the government consistently looks for: outcomes and performance; return on investment and avoided costs; and practical examples of collaboration that improve impact and efficiency.

Public health funding review: Expected engagement

On the public health funding review, we expect to hear more shortly. The Ministry has indicated planned engagement with local public health agencies this year on: public health sustainability, oversight, and performance.

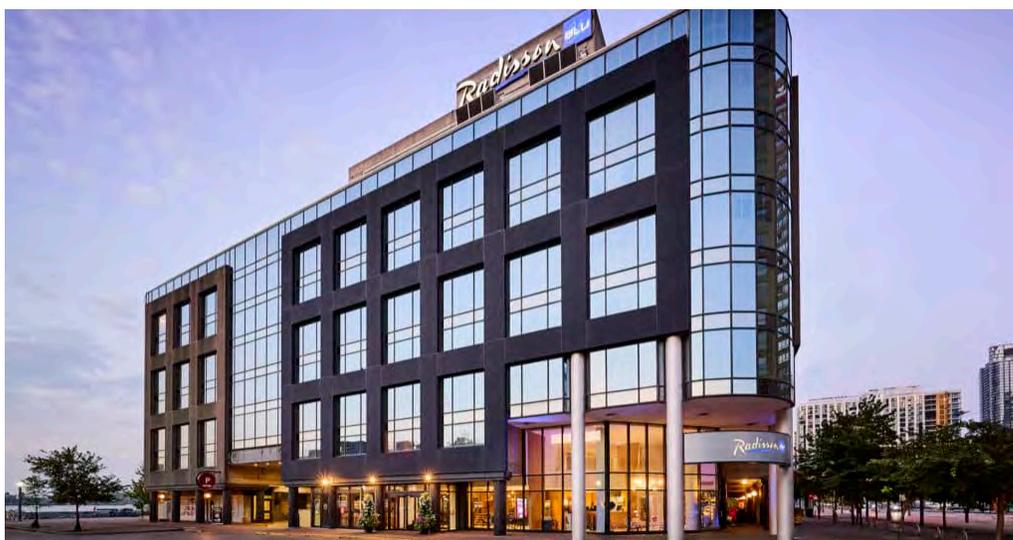
Thank you

Thank you for your continued leadership and for the work you and your teams deliver every day for communities across Ontario. It is because of your efforts that alPHA can credibly demonstrate the essential role of local public health in protecting health and supporting long-term economic resiliency.

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang

Chair, alPHA Board of Directors

Hold the date: 2026 ALPHA Annual General Meeting and Conference



Don't forget to save the date for the ALPHA Annual General Meeting and Conference, taking place in-person at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown, from June 8–10.

Our room block at the Radisson Blu—and two extensions—has officially sold out. We have secured additional rooms at the Radisson Blu at a higher rate. While above the original conference rate, these remain substantially more affordable than the hotel's standard room price. ALPHA has also secured a room block at the Union Hotel, which is priced similarly to the original room block at Radisson Blu. Booking is simple. Please see the email from January 15 for more information. We strongly encourage you to book your accommodations as soon as possible as hotel rooms in Toronto are expected to be limited during the time of the conference. Lastly, registration for the conference will commence at the usual time (this spring).

In the meantime, here is an overview of the timeline for events:

- **June 8: Mobile Workshop 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT**
- **Opening Reception 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. EDT**
- **June 9: AGM & Conference 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT**
- **June 10: BOH Section & COMOH Section Meetings 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT**



Thank you

2026 ALPHA AGM and Conference sponsors!

ALPHA would like to thank Northwestern Health Unit for co-hosting the 2026 AGM and Conference. We are pleased to announce there is already strong interest from previous sponsors. Additional sponsors are welcome. Please contact Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services, for more information. Our current sponsors include:

This event is co-hosted by ALPHA and Northwestern Health Unit



Platinum level sponsors:



Bronze level sponsor:



Recap of the 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium



Thank you to all the alPHA Members who attended, spoke at and/or moderated this year's Winter Symposium! We had a strong turnout, and we were glad so many of you could join us. alPHA would also like to thank Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, alPHA Chair, for chairing the event.

Thank you to the alPHA staff, Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Melanie Dziengo, Communications Coordinator, Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services, and Gordon Fleming, Manager, Public Health Issues, for all of their work to make the Symposium, workshops, Section meetings, and Board meeting a success.

alPHA would like to acknowledge and thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being the co-host for the alPHA Winter Symposium. Their support made these events possible. A huge shoutout goes to Obadiah George from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Andy Morrisson from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event and technical support. It would not have been possible without them!

Presentations from this year's Winter Symposium are now available. Please note, you will need to log in to the Members' side of the website to view the presentations. You can do so [here](#).

Lastly, we would like to announce the winner of the in-person gift card, Dr. Joanna Oda. The after-event survey winner is Ryan Janssen. Congratulations!



Thank you, Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants!



Thank you to all of the Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants who took part in the ALPHA 2026 Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Winter Workshop. It was a success and it's all thanks to your enthusiastic participation!

The virtual workshop, which was led by Christy Bloemendal from Leaders for Leaders, helped attendees reframe sustainability away from “doing less” and towards making intentional choices over time—helping them protect their energy, set boundaries, and continue making a difference without burning out.

ALPHA would like to thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being this year's workshop co-host. A shoutout also goes to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their event support.

Thank you to all those attendees who completed their after-event surveys. The winner of the gift card is Manon Tessier. Congratulations!

ALPHA 2026 Boards of Health (BOH) Section Election Meeting



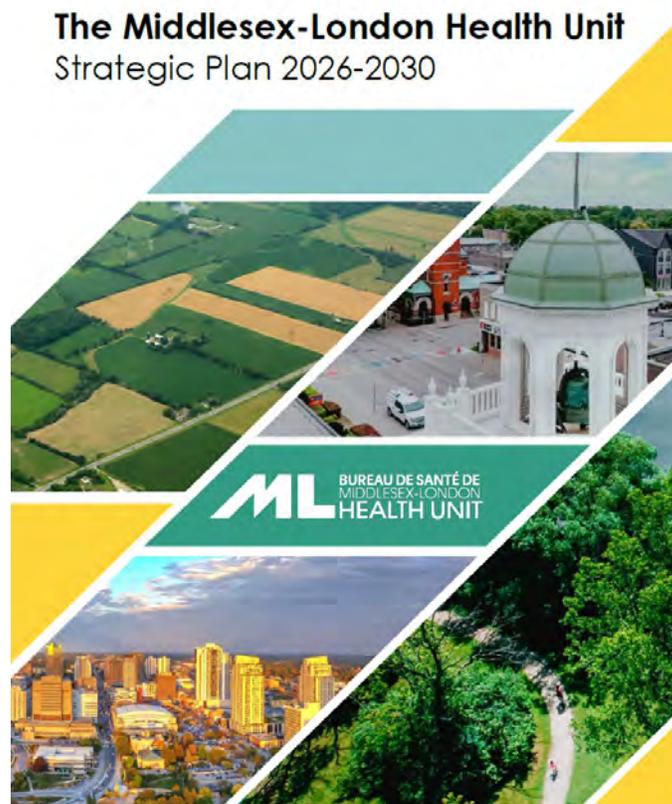
BOH Section Member Representatives who are in good standing are invited to attend a meeting via Zoom on May 5, 2026, at 2 p.m. EDT for the sole purpose of electing Boards of Health Regional Representatives to the ALPHA Board of Directors.

The package for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was recently sent out to the Members and the information in it regarding the BOH Section nominations can be found [here](#).

BOH Section Members attending the meeting are entitled to vote for all Regional Representatives, not just those from their own region. All BOH Section Members who wish to vote must be in attendance at the May 5 meeting. A form has been sent to the executive and administrative assistants who serve as the ALPHA contact to fill out the registration form for all BOH Section attendees.

Please note, only one submission form per public health unit is allowed.

Middlesex-London Health Unit Strategic Plan 2026-2030



The Middlesex-London Health Unit has launched a new, five-year strategic plan. The plan is designed to address the public health needs of a community that has changed significantly over the past decade due to a global pandemic, population growth, and increasingly complex social and natural environments.

The plan, which will guide the agency's work from 2026 until 2030, introduces new organizational values, a new vision statement, "Healthy People. Thriving Community," and three strategic priorities: Serve Our Community, Support Our People, and Strengthen Our Performance." It outlines goals such as strengthening organizational capacity to respond to public health threats and emergencies, advancing anti-racism and inclusion in the community and in the workplace, and adopting technological solutions to help us serve our community better.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit's 2026-30 Strategic Plan can be found on the organization's new website at www.healthunit.com/about-us/strategic-plan/.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Strategic Plan 2026-2029



The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's 2026–2029 Strategic Plan provides a clear roadmap to guide our shared areas of focus over the next four years. Grounded in the health unit's mandate, it refreshes our guiding foundations and positions our organization to meet evolving public health needs while continually enhancing our work with communities.

Developed with input from employees, the Board of Health, and community partners, the plan is guided by four interconnected strategic directions: Community Engagement, Equity-Driven Action, Quality and Innovation, and a Skilled and Connected Workforce. Together, these directions shape how the organization will strengthen relationships, reduce health inequities, deliver high-quality, evidence-informed programs and services across Simcoe Muskoka, and support a resilient public health workforce.

This plan positions the health unit to maximize its impact and advance its vision of: Healthy communities. Healthy people.

Public Health Matters: A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS



A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE

Protecting local public health is essential to supporting Ontario's economy. A healthy population is more productive, reduces health-care costs, and drives long-term prosperity. Through community-based strategies and strong partnerships, local public health improves health outcomes, increases efficiency, and strengthens local economies across Ontario. The positive impact of local public health in Ontario is illustrated in the examples below.

OUR ASK:

We are asking provincial and municipal decision makers to sustain and strengthen funding for Ontario's local public health system so that communities stay healthy, services remain stable, and the economy stays strong.

PREVENTING DISEASE: IMMUNIZATION

Immunization keeps children healthy and parents in the workforce — while reducing costly hospital care.

- 25% fewer hospitalizations among children aged 0–4 during the 2024–25 RSV season after expanded infant immunization
- 186,000+ Hepatitis B doses and 233,000+ HPV doses delivered to students in 2024
- Childhood immunization reduces ER visits, hospital stays, and long-term health costs

PROTECTING THE POPULATION: OUTBREAK PREVENTION & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Public health detects and contains outbreaks early, protecting workplaces, care settings, and essential services.

- 5,000+ respiratory outbreak responses in congregate settings (2024–25)
- 1,800+ follow-ups by public health units in response to Infection Prevention and Control complaints in 2024
- Emergency response support for First Nations communities during floods and wildfires in 2025

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PROTECTING THE POPULATION: INSPECTIONS

Public health inspections prevent illness by enforcing safety standards in everyday settings.

- 42,000+ food premises inspected in 2024
- 6,800+ pools and spas inspected in 2024
- 8,600+ personal service settings inspected in 2024

PROTECTING THE POPULATION: INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations stop health threats before they spread, protecting communities and the health system.

- 14,000+ food safety investigations in 2024
- 106,000+ disease notifications managed in 2024
- 28,000+ rabies exposures investigations in 2024

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Preventive public health programs reduce chronic disease and long-term health-care costs.

- 556,000+ students screened for dental needs in 2024
- 526,000+ children and youth supported through Healthy Smiles Ontario as of March 2025
- 109,700+ seniors enrolled in the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program as of March 2025
- 99,450+ postpartum Healthy Babies Healthy Children screens completed April 2024-March 2025



Be the unified voice and a trusted advisor on public health



Advance the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations



Support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system



Deliver member services to local public health leaders

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Convening the Leadership of Local Public Health Agencies



ALPHA is pleased with the positive response from key stakeholders to the latest *Public Health Matters* infographic (a screenshot is above). This is the fifth in the series and focuses on the connection between healthy communities and a strong economy. The infographics are designed to help decision-makers understand the role, value, and impact of local public health in a clear and accessible way. These materials are intended to support conversations with municipal and provincial decision-makers and ALPHA Members are encouraged to use these resources. To read more, click [here](#).

Canadian Health Measures Survey is now underway in Scarborough-North



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Statistics Canada is currently conducting the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) in Scarborough-North. The data from this survey are used by researchers to further understand the relationship between disease risk factors and risk conditions such as obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and more. It also sheds light on illnesses and enables health professionals to be better prepared for public health challenges.

The CHMS has been an ongoing partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada since 2007. From April 2025 to April 2027, they will visit 16 sites across the provinces.

Confidentiality and security are their top priorities. Statistics Canada takes the privacy of Canadians very seriously. All personal information they collect is strictly protected. All information is anonymized; it's never possible to connect data that is made public to any person or household.

Some facts about their operations in Scarborough-North:

- Approximately 850 households have been selected to participate.
- Survey participation is voluntary.
- The temporary examination centre (TEC) is located in the parking lot of the Frank McKechnie Community Centre (310 Bristol Road East).
 - o Check out their [video](#) for a virtual tour of the facility.
- The TEC will be in operation at this location from March 11 to April 15, 2026.
- Those who complete both the in-person interview and visit to the TEC will be reimbursed \$150 for the costs of transportation or childcare-related expenses. Participants will receive a report detailing the results of specific physical and laboratory tests, which they can access online through the new MyResults Portal or by mail.



Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) update

OAPHD has released its finalized Strategic Plan 2026–2030, outlining a clear, evidence informed roadmap to strengthen public health dentistry during a period of significant system transformation. The plan positions OAPHD as **a provincial standard setter, trusted partner, and policy voice**, with a strong focus on integrating oral health into the broader health and social system.

It emphasizes system integration, practice standards, prevention, and equity, responding directly to CDCP implementation, workforce pressures, data and practice consistency, and widening oral health inequities, while supporting Medical Officers of Health and public health units to advance prevention focused, equitable oral health across Ontario.



OAPHD Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Strengthening Public Health Dentistry in Ontario

System Integration & Policy Influence	Practice Standards & Quality Improvement	Prevention & Upstream Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated advocacy Oral health leadership Partner relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared guidelines Core indicators Workforce capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School-based prevention Equity focus OPHS alignment

Why this matters for MOHs / PHUs

Provides a province-wide roadmap to strengthen prevention and equity, advance consistent practice standards and indicators, and support system integration—including during CDCP implementation and ongoing workforce pressures.

Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) | Strategic Plan 2026–2030

alPHA Correspondence

Through policy analysis, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHA's Members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention, and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [alPHA Submission - 2026 Ontario Budget - Jan. 15, 2026](#)



Board of Health Shared Resources

A resource page is available on ALPHA's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, Resolutions, and other resources. In particular, ALPHA is seeking resources to share regarding the province's *Strengthening Public Health Initiative*, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the ALPHA website include:

- [Orientation Manual for Boards of Health \(Revised Jan. 2024\)](#)
- [Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018, \(PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023\)](#)
- [Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health \(Video, June 8, 2021\)](#)
- [Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001 \(Revised 2021\)](#)
- [Governance Toolkit \(Revised 2022\)](#)
- [Risk Management for Health Units](#)
- [Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit](#)
- [The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction](#)
- [The Ontario Public Health Standards](#)
- [Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview \(for Provincial Appointees to BOH\)](#)
- [Ontario Boards of Health by Region](#)
- [List of Units sorted by Municipality](#)
- [List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit](#)
- [Map: Boards of Health Types NCCHP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System \(2021\)](#)
- [The Municipal Role of Public Health \(2022 U of T Report\)](#)
- [Boards of Health and Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act](#)
- [Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada](#)
- [BOH Training Courses](#)





OPHC 2026: Register Now

Registration is now open for TOPHC 2026, taking place on March 25, 2026. This year's event is a free, half-day virtual convention designed to bring together public health leaders and professionals from across Ontario and beyond. With expert panels, dynamic discussions, and networking opportunities, TOPHC 2026 will be a unique opportunity to stay ahead of emerging trends, connect with colleagues, and explore innovative solutions in public health.

[Register now](#) and be part of the conversations shaping the future of public health. Visit their website to [explore the full program](#) and [meet this year's speakers](#).

IPAC for Health Care Workers Guide

PHO's new Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) for Health Care Workers [Resources for Trainers](#) is now available. These new resources, which complement to PHO's interactive IPAC for Health Care Workers online course released in August 2025, are intended to support trainers/facilitators in conducting face-to-face IPAC training for health care workers. These resources provide a ready-to-use package for instructor-led or group-based IPAC training and can be used across hospitals, long-term care, primary care, dental clinics, home care and other health care settings. Because these resources align with the structure and content of online course, organizations can deliver consistent, standardized IPAC training across multiple formats—whether online, in the classroom, or during workplace onboarding.

Immunization Data Tool

In January, PHO updated their [Immunization Data Tool](#), which provides comprehensive immunization program surveillance data in Ontario. This interactive tool has been updated with the most recent year's data for immunization coverage estimates for routine childhood and school-based immunizations and vaccine safety surveillance data collected from reports of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). They have also added new information on COVID-19 immunization coverage and AEFI reports associated with COVID-19 vaccines.

Also available are updated [technical notes](#) and [user guide](#), as well as an accompanying [infographic](#) that provides a summary of AEFIs reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2024.



Respiratory Resources

- [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)
- [Integrated Respiratory Virus Risk Indicators for Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)

Infectious Disease Surveillance Reports

- [iGAS in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [Diseases of Public Health Significance Cases](#)
- [Hepatitis C in Ontario: Focus on 2024](#)

Recent Presentations

- [PHO Learning Exchange: Managing iGAS Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Talk About Doxy PEP STIs](#)
- [Efficiency Using AI Scribe](#)
- [Public Health Data to Support Trans and Non-binary Health](#)
- [PHO Webinar: Smoking Cessation and Concurrent Alcohol and/or Substance Use](#)
- [PHO Rounds: A Model of Collaboration: Initiatives of the Black, African, and Caribbean Community Health and Wellness Collaborative in Peel](#)
- [PHO Rounds: Improving Immunization Coverage and Processes in Ontario](#)
- [PHO Webinar: Substance Use and Gender-based Violence: Strategies and Resources](#)
- [PHO Rounds: Black Public Health: Promising Practices Series](#)

PHO Rounds: Assessing Quality Improvement Maturity Across Ontario PHUs

Continuous quality improvement (CQI) frameworks provide a potentially fruitful approach for enhancing public health practice. Ontario's public health units (PHUs) vary widely in their understanding and implementation of CQI. Building on earlier work from 2016, the research presented in this PHO Rounds supports a coordinated provincial approach by assessing PHUs' CQI maturity. The objectives were to describe the current state of CQI in Ontario PHUs using a validated, Ontario adapted Quality Improvement Maturity Tool. Twenty-five PHUs completed the modified survey. The results of the survey will be presented and discussed in terms of what this means for Ontario PHUs readiness for QI implementation.

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Intended audience: Public health professionals, MOHs/AMOHs, Public health leadership, Ministry of Health staff with interest in quality improvement. By the end of this session, participants will be able to: Describe the variation in CQI understanding and implementation across Ontario PHUs; Interpret provincial averages of CQI maturity scores, identify what the results indicate for system readiness, and reflect on your own organization's CQI practices. To learn more, click [here](#).

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

- ["Immigrants' Mental Health Dilemma"](#) with Hui Zheng (Mar. 17)
- [Care Economies in Context Speaker Series: Immigrants' Mental Health Dilemma](#) (Mar. 17)
- ["What is Contemplative Science?"](#) With Dr. Mark Miller (Mar. 18)
- [META:PHI Virtual Conference 2026](#) (Apr. 17-18)



Ontario Public Health Directory: March 2026 update

The [Ontario Public Health Directory](#) has been updated and is available on the ALPHA website. Please ensure you have the latest version, which has been dated as of **March 9, 2026**. To view the file, log into the ALPHA website.

This update is a tool to keep ALPHA's Members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, ALPHA activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.



Being a healthcare professional in 2026 requires care and dedication. At The Personal, we believe it's our job to support you. That's why we've partnered with the **Association of Local Public Health Agencies** to help you:

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¹Internal statistics of The Personal. Approximate number of policyholders that belong to groups of healthcare professionals across all Canadian provinces, February 2025.

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For more information on The Personal, please click [here](#) (English) and [here](#) for French.



NEWS

News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).



ALPHA's mailing address

Please note our mailing address is:

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Toronto, ON M6C 4A7

For further information, please contact info@alphaweb.org.



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