

# InfoBreak

*alPHa's members' portal*



Winter 2026



## Key Highlights

- Delegation to Minister of Finance on January 14: protecting and investing in local public health to strengthen Ontario's economy.
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2026 concurrent session (January 19): Why municipal investment in local public health matters; leadership meetings with AMO and OMA.
- Save the date: alPHa Winter Symposium (online), Feb. 11–13, 2026
- Governance: A Resolutions process update at the AGM (preview at the Winter Symposium).
- Thank you for your continued leadership and impact across Ontario's 444 municipalities.

## Advancing Strategic Priorities

- Delegation to Ontario's 2026 Budget Consultation (January 14, 2026)
  - I presented alPHa's case that:
    - Public health is a key driver of economic strength and resilience.
    - Local public health continues to step up amid growing and complex demands.
    - Sustained, sufficient investment protects Ontarians and reduces downstream system costs.
  - We appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, as not all stakeholders receive a delegation slot when requested.
- ROMA Conference: Making the municipal case for public health (January 18–20, 2026)
  - Concurrent session: *Public Health Matters: A Strong Economy Supported by Healthy Communities*. How investing in local public health strengthens communities and economies.
    - Date/time: Sunday, January 19, 1:15–2:30 p.m. (EST)
    - Location: Sheraton Centre Toronto

o alPHA leadership will also meet with AMO and OMA leadership while at ROMA to continue advancing joint priorities.

### Winter Symposium: February 11–13, 2026 (online)

- With anticipated updates on the new *Ontario Public Health Standards* and the province's review of public health funding, this will be an important touchpoint for timely updates from provincial and system partners.
- Registration has launched.

### Governance and Compliance

- Resolutions process: alPHA will bring forward required updates at the next Annual General Meeting. An overview of proposed changes will be presented at the Winter Symposium.

### Thank You

On behalf of the alPHA Board and Staff, thank you for the vital work you and your teams do every day. Your leadership enables alPHA to demonstrate how essential local public health is to the health of our communities and Ontario's economic resiliency.

— Hsiu-Li Wang

Chair, alPHA Board of Directors



# Register for the 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium

## 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium

## Feb. 11-13

In case you missed it, registration for this year's Winter Symposium is now open! These events will be taking place from February 11-13 and will discuss a variety of issues of key importance to public health leaders, and you won't want to miss out. Registration is for alPHA Members only, and the cost is \$399+HST. We want to thank those who have already registered for supporting alPHA. We are pleased to see strong enthusiasm for these events.

The symposium will feature an engaging lineup of speakers and topics, including:

- *Risk Communication Essentials: Top 10 Tips for Public Health Professionals* - Ron Brecher and Trevor Smith Diggins, Risk Partners
- *Update from Public Health Ontario (PHO)* - Dr. Samir Patel, Vice President and Chief, Microbiology and Laboratory Services, PHO; Dr. JinHee Kim, Physician Lead, Environmental and Occupational Health, PHO, and Catharine Chambers, Applied Public Health Science Specialist, Communicable Disease Control, PHO
- *alPHA Update* - Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA
- *On the Front Lines with the Affiliates* - Carolyn Doris, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health; Paul Sharma, Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry; Caitlyn Paget, Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, and Shannon Robinson, Health Promotion Ontario
- *Legally Speaking: alPHA's Legal Counsel in Conversation with Members* - James LeNoury, Principal, LeNoury Law and Legal Counsel, alPHA
- *Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Update* - Karen Nesbitt, Director, Policy and Government Relations, AMO; Alicia Neufeld, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO, and Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO

alPHA would like to acknowledge and thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being the co-host for the alPHA Winter Symposium. Their support has made these events possible. A shoutout goes to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event and technical support.



# alPHA 2026 Winter Symposium and Workshops: Pre-Symposium Lineup - Back by Popular Demand!



Sabine Matheson

## *Sleepless in Ontario* - StrategyCorp

Weds., Feb. 11 - 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

With 2026 municipal elections ahead, the political environment for public health is can change quickly. Get a forward look at the policy climate and the key issues affecting agencies and boards of health—so you can prepare with confidence.



Dr. Alexander Caudarella

## *Actioning Community Data Across Sectors*

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA)

Weds., Feb. 11 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn how CCSA is working with communities are shaping the response to substance use and addiction. This session features insights from the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, along with work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners, and innovative approaches to local data and action.



Claudia Valle

## *The Secret to Sustainability* - Leaders for Leaders

Thurs. Feb. 11 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sustainability isn't about doing less — it's about choosing what matters over time. Leave with practical strategies to protect your energy, set boundaries, and sustain your impact without burnout. Participants will learn how to rethink balance and self-care as practical and achievable.



You must be an alPHA Member to register. You will be automatically registered for the Pre-Symposium workshops when you register for the Winter Symposium.

This event is co-hosted by alPHA and Waterloo Public Health



Region of Waterloo

With generous support from:





# Register for the 2026 EA/AA Winter Workshop!

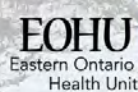
## alPHA 2026 EA/AA Winter Workshop Online: February 10

In this 2-hour workshop, Christy Bloemendal from Leaders to Leaders, reframes sustainability away from “doing less” and toward making intentional choices over time — helping leaders protect their energy, set boundaries, and keep making a difference without burning out!

This event is co-hosted by alPHA and Waterloo Public Health



With generous support from:



alPHA is pleased to invite you to the alPHA 2026 Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Winter Workshop.

This online two-hour virtual workshop will be led by Christy Bloemendal from Leaders for Leaders. This session reframes sustainability away from “doing less” and toward making intentional choices over time—helping leaders protect their energy, set boundaries, and continue making a difference without burning out. Participants will be encouraged to rethink balance and self-care as practical, seasonal, and achievable, so they can continue to lead well without sacrificing themselves in the process.

Registration details: The cost to attend is \$149 + HST and the registration deadline: is Friday, February 6, 2026. Please note, only Executive Assistants and Administrative Assistants working at a public health unit are eligible to attend. One registration equals one participant; badge sharing is not permitted. You do not need to create an account on the alPHA website to register.

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



## 2026 Budget Consultations

Last month, alPHA sent an e-mail to the Membership in regards to the provincial government seeking input on the 2026 budget. There is still time for you to submit your feedback, and it can be done via a survey, written submission, or mail/e-mail. alPHA has provided a [written submission](#) and invites its Members to also do so. Details can be found below and [here](#).

1. Online survey (3 -5 mins, multiple choice, no open-ended questions).

[Take the survey](#)

2. Written submission

Submit your “Top Three” suggestions for the 2026 Budget and/or upload a document.

[Submit your proposal](#)

3. Mail / e-mail (alPHA recommends uploading written documents via the portal as well). More information is available [here](#).

In-Person Consultation

Email: [MOFconsultations@ontario.ca](mailto:MOFconsultations@ontario.ca) for more information on consultations in your area.





# Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference



In mid-January, many alPHA Members, particularly those from the Boards of Health Section, will be attending the ROMA Conference. It will take place January 18-20 in Toronto. Whether you're attending the conference, or are participating in a delegation, here are key alPHA resources for Members to use:

- 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations - alPHA Deputation and Submission
- alPHA Correspondence
- alPHA's Resolutions from the 2025 AGM
- Public Health Matters Infographic – #5: A Strong Economy Supported By Healthy Communities
- “What is Public Health?”

Looking for more information? Visit our Boards of Health Resources webpage for documents to help you prepare for this event.

## **How to prepare for delegation meetings:**

Preparing for Ministerial Delegation Meetings: AMO has developed a guide to support members in requesting, preparing and participating in delegation meetings. You can access the guide here. To make the most of your delegation meetings:

1. Have a clear objective to help keep your conversation on track
2. Share supporting materials in advance to help ministry officials develop appropriate briefing materials
3. Keep your opening pitch short and focussed so that the majority of your meeting can be spent hearing from the Minister and pressing them on answers to your concerns
4. Connect your issue to government priorities to make it easier for them to see why they should help you
5. Show any documentation from previous ministry staff conversations and be specific about where the Minister can help you to overcome a barrier.
6. Make your delegation meeting the start of a conversation and ask for contact information to follow up afterwards and continue the conversation about your issue.

# Public Health Matters: A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

**PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS**

alPHA

Association of Local PUBLIC HEALTH Agencies

January 2026

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

www.alphaweb.org

**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

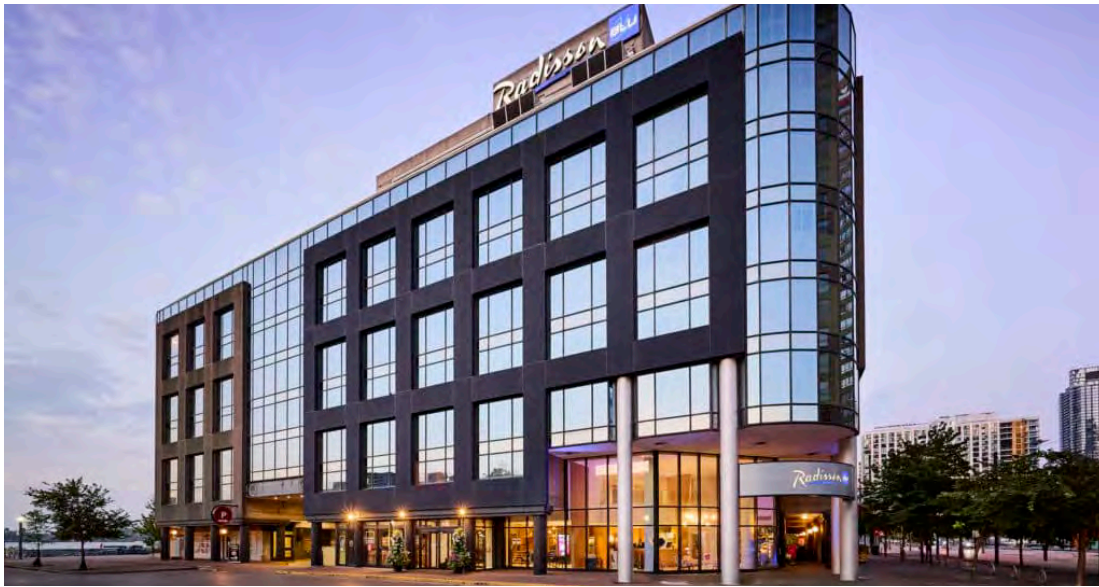
The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)  
Convening the Leadership of Local Public Health Agencies



A screenshot of the latest *Public Health Matters* infographic 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. To read more, click [here](#).



# 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 these are above the original conference rate, these are still more affordable than the standard room price at the hotel.

alPHA has also secured a room block at the Union Hotel. Booking is simple. Please see the e-mail 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).

alPHA would like to thank Northwestern Health Unit for co-hosting this event. alPHA is pleased to announce there is already strong interest from previous sponsors. If you know of any additional sponsors, please contact Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services.





## Health Promotion Ontario update

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO) held its AGM on December 10, 2025, and heard a keynote address from Dr. Claire Betker, Scientific Director for the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health on the Core Competencies for Public Health as they relate to the field of health promotion. The AGM also highlighted the Health Promotion Ontario updated website: [www.healthpromotionontario.ca](http://www.healthpromotionontario.ca) and we are continuing to build content that adds value for members. The HPO new membership year begins April 1. Membership connects you with a vibrant community dedicated to advancing the field of health promotion. Visit the website to learn more about membership classes, qualifications and fees. We will soon be sharing information related to the call for nominations for the Lori Chow Memorial Awards, acknowledging individuals and projects that contribute to the work of health promotion. We are also recruiting for the Executive Committee. If you are interested in learning more, please email [healthpromotionontario@gmail.com](mailto:healthpromotionontario@gmail.com).



## OPHNL update

With new *Ontario Public Health Standards*, public health nursing competencies, community health nursing standards of practice, and continued expanded scope of practice for nursing, it is important public health nursing leaders are supported to lead through change. The Ontario Association for Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL) is working to support our members through a redesign of our website to integrate technology that supports members to network, collaborate, and share resources. Furthermore, OPHNL is building on the success and momentum of our Spring 2025 Workshop and is planning a workshop in April 2026 to provide members with networking and professional development opportunities.

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](http://alphaweb.org).



# 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



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# 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](mailto: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







## Respiratory Resources

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

## Recent Resources

- [Strengthening Workforce Capacity in Emergency Management](#)
- [Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary - 2025](#) (updated)
- [Measles: Information for Health Care Provider](#) (updated)

## Infectious Disease Surveillance Reports

- [iGAS in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [Legionellosis in Ontario](#)
- [Diseases of Public Health Significance Cases](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Jan. 22:** [PHO Webinar: Smoking Cessation and Concurrent Alcohol and/or Substance Use](#)

## Recent Presentations

- [Toxigenic \*C. diphtheriae\* in a donkey: Implications for zoonotic disease transmission and One Health Approach](#)
- [Understanding and Communicating Health Risks from Radon Gas](#)
- [Peel Regions Heat Vulnerability Index](#)
- [Building a National Health Data System for a Perinatal Opioid Exposure: A Collaborative Approach](#)
- [Measles and Rubella Outbreaks: Experiences from the Netherlands](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination in Canada: A Health Economic Lens](#)
- [Scales, Tails and Salmonella: A Comparative Analysis of Human and Reptile Isolates](#)
- [Public Health Surveillance Vision 2030: Moving Data to Public Health Action](#)
- [Pediatric Nutrition Guidelines – Birth to Six Years](#)



## ***Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars***

- Psychiatric Ethics in an Authoritarian State: Bearing Witness & Respecting Persons (Jan. 19)
- Queering Ethics: Navigating Dual/Overlapping Relationships From an Ethics of Care (2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub lecture) (Jan. 21)
- The Sustainability Challenge of Modern Computational Science: The Climate Crisis and AI for Health (Jan. 28)
- Health Inc Seminar Series: Mapping industry influence (Jan. 29)
- Health Case for a Fossil Fuel Advertising Ban (Feb. 5)



## ***Ontario Public Health Directory: October 2025 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 **October 28, 2025**. To view the file, log into the alPHA website.

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# 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:

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

For further information, please contact [info@alphaweb.org](mailto:info@alphaweb.org).



Waterloo - Photo credit to [CBC](#)

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