April 24, 2017

Ms. Roselle Martino  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Population and Public Health Division  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
10th Floor, 80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Ms. Martino:

**RE: 2017 MOHLTC Standards for Public Health Programs and Services**

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit reviewed the 2017 MOHLTC Standards for Public Health Programs and Services at their meeting on April 20, 2017. The Board’s comments on the implementation of the Standards are as follows:

- There is a need for a phased-in approach to the implementation of the Standards with operational plan modifications and communication of changes in programs and services to partners and the community.
- General need for clarity. There isn’t sufficient detail with some of the changes to assess what the impact would be to programs and services - guidance documents and protocols to guide the work, including local needs assessment, are needed. It is important for the field to be involved in the creation of these documents.
- The annual service plan will increase the work for the budget submission each year, and quarterly reports. Provincial financial support for the development of information systems to be used for the Annual Service Plan, and to report on Programs would be helpful.
- It will be inefficient if 36 health units are each doing analysis of national or provincial databases, and literature reviews of effectiveness and analysis of risk and protective factors. It is suggested that Public Health Ontario or another central body have a role in these functions guided by the field.

The Board of Health also reviewed the submission of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) in response to the consultation document on the 2017 Standards for Public Health Programs and Services, and agrees with their comments, in particular:

- “The field must be involved in the development of new protocols and guidance documents.
- The importance of examining the existing and potential capacity, resource and funding issues.
There is still much that has not yet been defined within the new standards, and there are additional uncertainties about the outcomes of the correlated health system transformation processes. We would appreciate assurances that we will be full participants in ensuring that these processes and their products serve the best interests for effective health protection and promotion throughout the province.”

Sincerely,

Anne Warren, Chair
Board of Directors
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

AW/hb