

alPHa RESOLUTION A22-2

TITLE: **Public Health Restructuring/Modernization & COVID-19**

SPONSOR: **Peterborough Public Health**

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has indicated its intention to “modernize” the process of public health delivery in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the consultations led by Mr. Jim Pine on behalf of the Province were interrupted by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS public health has been significantly impacted both in the short and long term by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS there is a need to close the program deficit created during the last 28 months addressing COVID-19; and

WHEREAS there are significant lessons to be learned from addressing COVID-19; and

WHEREAS there is a need to engage municipal partners in any proposed financial changes to funding public health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) send formal correspondence to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health of Ontario, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario insisting that, prior to continuing with any renewal initiatives and/or implementing lessons learned from COVID-19, a new round of consultation with local public health agencies (LPHAs), alPHa, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ministry of Health and other relevant parties be conducted, and

AND FURTHER THAT alPHa take the position that the Ontario public health mandate as currently outlined in the Ontario Public Health Standards not be altered or diminished in an effort to achieve budget reduction targets, and that the Province continues to financially support LPHAs, in an adequate and predictable manner, to implement the Standards and not require municipalities to increase the percentage of their contribution, and

AND FURTHER THAT alPHa promote the following principles as fundamental to addressing modernization and COVID-recovery activities:

- That the recommendations, as outlined in the January 2022 alPHa Public Health Resilience in Ontario be given full consideration by the provincial government;

- That the current mitigation funding be continued until such time as the cost-shared arrangement is reset to 75/25 for all cost-shared programs and that the Province once again assumes 100% funding for those programs identified as such in the public health budget for 2018-19.
- That COVID recovery be supported by 100% one-time funding from the Province to assist LPHAs in addressing non-COVID program deficits.
- That any amalgamation of existing public health units group units together that have similar communities of interest.
- That any reform of public health includes a local governance model.
- That the unique challenges of rural and urban communities be distinctly incorporated in any re-organization or modernization initiatives.
- That any re-organization, modernization or recovery initiatives be implemented with the meaningful participation of First Nations and Indigenous peoples.
- That alPha is committed to working collaboratively with Ontario Health and health system partners to contribute to a health system that addresses inequities identified prior to and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CARRIED AS AMENDED