

TITLE: Affirming the Impact of Climate Change on Health

SPONSOR: Kingston, Frontenac, and Lennox & Addington Public Health

WHEREAS climate change is defined as a shift in long-term worldwide climate phenomena associated with changes in the composition of the global atmosphere¹; and

WHEREAS the World Health Organization states climate change to be the greatest global health threat of the 21st century²; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concludes that human influence on climate change is clear and is extremely likely that human influence is the dominant cause³; and

WHEREAS climate change impacts the health of all people through temperature-related morbidity and mortality, extreme weather events, poor air quality, food and water contamination, altered exposure to ultraviolet rays, increasing risk of vector-borne infectious diseases, food security and indirectly impacts people by affecting labour capacity and population migration and displacement⁴⁻⁶; and

WHEREAS climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, low income and homeless people, those who are chronically ill, Indigenous peoples, and rural and remote residents^{7,8}; and

WHEREAS the City of Kingston, the City of Hamilton, and the City of Ottawa declared a climate emergency for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening commitment to protecting the economy, the ecosystem, and the community from climate change; and

WHEREAS tackling climate change requires political commitment by international, federal, provincial, and municipal stakeholders in acknowledging climate change as a public health issue

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) affirm the anthropogenic cause of climate change and its adverse impact on health in all people;

AND FURTHER will call upon strategic and provincial partners including the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Labour, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Public Health Association, etc. to support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in local communities.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Carried

References – Resolution A19-2

1. United Nations. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. New York; 1992.
2. World Health Organization. WHO calls for urgent action to protect health from climate change – Sign the call. <https://www.who.int/globalchange/global-campaign/cop21/en/>. Published 2015. Accessed April 11, 2019.
3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Geneva; 2014.
4. Government of Canada. Climate change and health: Health effects. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health.html>. Published 2018. Accessed April 11, 2019.
5. Costello A, Abbas M, Allen A, et al. Managing the health effects of climate change: Lancet and University College London Institute for Global Health Commission. *Lancet (London, England)*. 2009;373(9676):1693-1733.
6. Watts N, Amann M, Ayeb-Karlsson S, et al. The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: from 25 years of inaction to a global transformation for public health. *Lancet (London, England)*. 2018;391(10120):581-630.
7. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. *Climate Change: An Overview*. New York; 2007.
8. Government of Canada. Climate change and health: Populations at risk. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/populations-risk.html>. Published 2018. Accessed April 11, 2019.