

**AGENDA**

**2023 alPHa ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS SESSION**

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT

6<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium, Room 610, 155 College St. Toronto, ON M5T 3M7

**Chair: Trudy Sachowski, President**

**Resolutions Chair and Parliamentarian: Dr. Robert Kyle, Treasurer**

1. **CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Trudy Sachowski
2. **REVIEW OF AGENDA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** Trudy Sachowski
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - i. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Trudy Sachowski  
*Meeting was held online on June 14, 2022. (attached)*
  - ii. **PRESIDENT’S AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** Trudy Sachowski/Loretta Ryan  
(Excerpt from 2022-2023 Annual Report.)
  - iii. **REPORT ON 2022 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (attached)** Loretta Ryan
  - iv. **BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT (attached)** Carmen McGregor
  - v. **COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT (attached)** Dr. Eileen de Villa
  - vi. **AFFILIATES REPORT (attached)** Cynthia St. John

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: THAT alPHa’s Membership approves the consent agenda as distributed.**

4. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER** Wess Garrod  
Receipt of the 2022-2023 Audited Financial Statements

**MOTION:**

**WHEREAS the alPHa Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the 2022-2023 audited financial statements;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2022-2023 audited financial statements be received by alPHa’s Membership as distributed.**

**5. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2023-2024**

Wess Garrod

**MOTION: THAT aPHa's Membership approve the appointment of Chaplin & Co. LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants as the organization's auditor for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.**

**6. 2022-2023 aPHa BOARD RECOGNITION**

Loretta Ryan

**7. RESOLUTIONS SESSION**

(Please refer to the resolutions package.)

Robert Kyle

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Trudy Sachowski



Association of Local  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Agencies

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**2022 alPHa ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Via Zoom*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by alPHa President P. Roumeliotis at 10:16 a.m. and the land acknowledgement was read.

**2. REVIEW OF AGENDA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

A review of the agenda took place. The agenda was approved on a motion by C. McGregor that was seconded and carried.

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

(i) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MOTION:** To approve minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting was moved by P. Roumeliotis, seconded, and carried.

(ii) PRESIDENT'S AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reports were reviewed by P. Roumeliotis and L. Ryan.

(iii) REPORT ON 2021 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

A report on the 2021 Annual meeting resolutions was provided by L. Ryan.

(iv) BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT

The Boards of Health Section Report was shared by W. Garrod.

(v) COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT

The report was shared by C. Gardner. He also put forward a revision to the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health slate. Going forward, Eileen de Villa will be chair, Hsiu-Li Wang will be vice-chair, and Alexander Summers will be the South West Region Representative.

(vi) AFFILIATES REPORT

An update was provided by S. Rebellato.

**MOTION:** Approval of the Consent Agenda took place on a motion by P. Roumeliotis that was seconded and carried.

4. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

The report of the treasurer was shared by R. Kyle.

A discussion on the appointment of the auditor general for 2022-2023 was held.

**MOTION:** Whereas the alPHa Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the 2021-22 audited financial statements;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 2021-22 audited financial statements be received by alPHa as distributed. It was moved by P. Sharma, seconded, and carried.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2022-2023**

**MOTION:** To appoint Chaplin & Co as the Association's auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year moved by S. Rebellato, seconded, and carried.

6. **2021-2022 ALPHA BOARD RECOGNITION**

alPHa executive director L. Ryan recognized outgoing members of the current Board of Directors and outgoing members who have completed their terms. She thanked them for their contributions over the past year.

7. **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution #A22-1: Race-Based Inequities in Health.

**MOTION:** To approve the Resolution was moved by E. de Villa, seconded, and carried.

Resolution #A22-2: Public Health Restructuring/Modernization & COVID-19.

**MOTION:** To approve the amended Resolution was moved by T. Piggott, seconded, and carried.

Resolution #A22-3: Provincial Cooling Tower Registry for the Public Health Management of Legionella Outbreaks.

**MOTION:** To approve the Resolution was moved by C. Gardner, seconded, and carried.

Two late resolutions were also heard. Resolution #A22-4: Priorities for Provincial Action on the Drug/Opioid Poisoning Crisis in Ontario. This resolution was amended.

**MOTION:** To approve the amended Resolution was moved by L. Simon, seconded, and carried. A second late resolution was heard. Resolution #A22-5: Indigenous Harm Reduction: A Wellness

Journey. This resolution was amended.

**MOTION:** To approve the amended Resolution was moved by Pam Stuckless, seconded, and carried.

## 8. RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The 2022 alpha resolutions were considered by the membership. Following is the disposition of these resolutions:

Resolution #	Title	Sponsor	Action from Conference
A22-1	RACE-BASED INEQUITIES IN HEALTH	Council of Medical Officers of Health	Carried
A22-2	PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRUCTURING/MODERNIZATION & COVID-19	Peterborough Public Health	Carried as amended
A22-3	PROVINCIAL COOLING TOWER REGISTRY FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF LEGIONELLA OUTBREAKS	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	Carried
A22-4 (Late Resolution)	PRIORITIES FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION ON THE DRUG/OPIOID POISONING CRISIS IN ONTARIO	Council of Medical Officers of Health	Carried as amended
A22-5 (Late Resolution)	INDIGENOUS HARM REDUCTION: A WELLNESS JOURNEY	Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit	Carried as amended

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

## President and Executive Director Report

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) is the collective voice of Ontario's local public health agencies. The Association continues to offer active and outstanding support to its members by providing Ontario's Boards of Health, Medical Officers of Health, and Affiliate organizations with a strong and unified voice on issues that affect local public health. Each of Ontario's 34 local Boards of Health is a current member in good standing, and this is essential for ALPHA's continued strength and unity.

Over the past year, ALPHA has continually profiled the importance of public health's upstream focus on prevention, communicated the key role local public health plays in communities, and reinforced the extraordinary value of the work carried out every day by Ontario's public health professionals. The common thread of public health's value was strong throughout ALPHA's work in 2022-2023, by highlighting the need for the full resumption of routine public health programs and services, in addition to ongoing duties related to the pandemic response.

Guided by its Strategic Plan, ALPHA has been active in creating submissions, reports, and other communication tools as a foundation for advocacy on behalf of its members for a stable, sustainable, resilient, and locally based public health system in Ontario. Highlights of ALPHA's work for 2022-2023 include:

- Creation of public policy submissions and advancement of ALPHA Resolutions on key public health issues. These were supported by the development of additional communication tools including Public Health Matters infographics and videos. Widely shared, these demonstrate the value and return on investment that local public health provides. These resources are useful for our members and in meetings with local councillors, MPPs, and other important stakeholders.
- Successfully launching the BOH Orientation Manual and BOH Governance Toolkit. These are complemented by the ever-growing BOH Shared Resources webpage that support the Board of Health members and are an excellent resource for all of ALPHA's members.
- Continuing to provide relevant and timely member-focused information to local public health agencies through e-mail, website, social media, and newsletters. *Information Break*, in particular, is a sharable resource that functions as a monthly portal to public health news, association activities, and events.
- Effectively positioned ALPHA to be the voice of Ontario's public health system by holding more than 50 meetings of ALPHA's Board, BOH Section, COMOH Section, Affiliates, and their respective Executive Committees.

A major component of ALPHA's success in 2022-2023 has been based on relationships that ALPHA has built and nurtured over the years with key stakeholders and decision-makers. It is an extensive list that, to name a few, includes Ontario's Ministry of Health, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Ontario Medical Association. Forging these strong alliances supports the aims of public health and has ensured that ALPHA's Board of Directors, Boards of Health (BOH) Section, Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) Section and Affiliate members are the voice of local public health. In keeping with this, ALPHA members actively represented the local public health system at a variety of key public health tables and other important meetings. ALPHA was also pleased to co-host and present at The Ontario Public Health Convention 2023 (TOPHC), participate in panels at the AMO 2022 AGM/Conference, present at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) 2023 AGM/Conference, participate in the Ontario

Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance event at Queen’s Park in February 2023, and many other external events.

In 2022-2023, alPHa provided important opportunities for the collective voice of Ontario’s public health system to assemble. alPHa continued to attract high-profile speakers to its symposiums, conferences, and events, which this past year included the 2023 Winter Symposium, a special conference for Executive and Administrative Assistants and two ‘Road to Mental Readiness’ workshops, for the COMOH Section in November 2022 and for the BOH Section and Affiliate members in February 2023. In addition, alPHa relaunched the Fitness Challenge in the month of May as the Workplace Health and Wellness Month and is dedicating additional resources to support the physical and mental health of our members.

alPHa’s 2023 AGM, plenary sessions, and Section meetings are taking place in Toronto from June 12 to 14, 2023. These are the first in-person events in over three years. While the event is planned and hosted by alPHa, it couldn’t be done without Toronto Public Health co-hosting and support from the University of Toronto’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

The success of alPHa for 2022-2023 is built not only on the support of you, its members, it requires a dedicated and unified governance board, complemented by the tremendous work and services provided by alPHa staff. The alPHa Board continues to give the Association a uniquely qualified and unified leadership voice for Ontario’s local public health system. alPHa is fortunate to have Board members who volunteer and are passionate about public health – thank you to each and everyone. alPHa recognizes and understands the challenges facing our members. Guided by its Strategic Plan, alPHa will continue to work tirelessly leading with one, unified voice representing the public health system across its member constituents in its commitment to influence Ontario’s decision-makers to ensure a robust local public health system with ample resources to protect the entire population’s health.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported alPHa this past year. We are pleased to share this report with Ontario’s public health leaders and look forward to continuing to work together to foster a stronger local public health system in Ontario.

Sincerely,



**Trudy Sachowski**  
*President*



**Loretta Ryan**  
*Executive Director*

To access linked correspondence, original resolutions, and other materials, please visit  
[http://www.alphaweb.org/?page=alPHa\\_Resolutions](http://www.alphaweb.org/?page=alPHa_Resolutions)

**Disposition of alPHa Resolutions 2022**

**A22-1: Race Based Inequities in Health**

**A22-2: Public Health Modernization/Restructuring**

**A22-3: Cooling Tower Registry**

**A22-4: Drug/Opioid Poisoning Crisis**

**A22-5: Indigenous Harm Reduction**

**RESOLUTION A22-1 - Race-Based Inequities in Health**

THAT alPHa call on the Ministry of Health to work with stakeholders and communities to explore methods, supports, and resources to more systematically collect sociodemographic data including race, within the provincial health services and to make this data routinely available to local Public Health Units for assessment and planning, to ensure that we are deploying resources to the populations with the greatest need, supporting culturally safe public health services and preserving the capacity of the health care system.

**Developments on A22-1:**

**December 2022**

Public Health Ontario has approved a 2022-23 Locally Driven Collaborative Project (LDCP) titled, *Lessons learned from the collection of sociodemographic data (SDD) during the COVID-19 pandemic*, led by Peel Public Health in partnership with Ottawa Public Health and Upstream Lab (MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael’s Hospital).

The intent of the project is to review across Ontario health units what worked during the pandemic, barriers to SDD collection, and assessing how those lessons might be applied across other Public Health services.

**October 14, 2022**

alPHA has sent a [letter to the Minister of Health](#) urging the incorporation of sociodemographic data (SDD) in all database systems, including the Case Contact Management expansion (which is replacing iPHIS) for reporting of diseases of public health significance (DoPHS).

**July 18, 2022**

alPHA has sent a separate [letter to the Minister of Health](#) that introduces this resolution specifically.

**July 18, 2022**

[Letter](#) sent to the Minister of Health from the alPHA President that introduces this and the four other resolutions that were passed by our members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

#### **A22-2 - Public Health Restructuring/Modernization & COVID-19**

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-19 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-19 recovery be supported by 100% one-time funding from the Province to assist LPHAs in addressing non-COVID-19 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 reorganization 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.

### Developments on A22-2

**\*Please note that alPHA has undertaken an extensive number of activities related to public health modernization. Please see the [dedicated resource page](#) on [alphaweb.org](#).**

**July 18, 2022**

alPHA has sent a [letter to the Minister of Health](#) that provides several documents, including Resolution A22-2, that give an overview of alPHA's positions and principles that we hope will be carefully considered as Ontario's public health system is reviewed and strengthened in the wake of the emergency phase of the COVID-19 response.

**July 18, 2022**

[Letter](#) sent to the Minister of Health from the alPHA President that introduces this and the four other resolutions that were passed by our members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

### [RESOLUTION A22-3: Provincial Cooling Tower Registry for the Public Health Management of Legionella Outbreaks](#)

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing recommending the creation of a province-wide mandatory cooling tower registration system and mandating a risk management plan for cooling towers to operate;

### Developments on A22-3:

**October 14, 2022**

[Second letter from alPHA](#), reintroducing this resolution in the wake of a legionella outbreak that is being investigated in the City of Orillia.

**August 24, 2022**

[Response](#) received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to alPHA's letter requesting action on this resolution.

**July 18, 2022**

alPHA has sent a [letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing](#) that introduces Resolution A22-3.

**July 18, 2022**

[Letter](#) sent to the Minister of Health from the alpha President that introduces this and the four other resolutions that were passed by our members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION A22-4: Priorities for Provincial Action on the Drug/Opioid Poisoning Crisis in Ontario**

THAT alpha endorse the nine priorities for a provincial multi-sector response;

AND FURTHER that the noted provincial priorities and areas of contribution by local public health agencies be communicated to the Premier, Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions, Attorney General, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ontario Health and CEO of Public Health Ontario;

AND FURTHER that alpha urge the above mentioned parties to collaborate on an effective, well-resourced and comprehensive multi-sectoral approach, which meaningfully involves and is centred around PWUDs from of all backgrounds, and is based on the nine identified provincial priorities.

AND FURTHER that alpha recommend the provincial government consider the potential role and appropriate timing of declaring the drug poisoning crisis in Ontario as an emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection act (R.S.O. 1990).

#### **Developments on A22-4:**

##### **February, 2023**

Grey Bruce Health Unit was recently approved to lead a 2022-23 Locally Driven Collaborative Project (LDCP) entitled:

***“Implementing an evidence-informed public health approach to health promotion around substance use and preventing substance-related harms among youth aged 15-24 in Ontario.”***

The intent of the project is to provide an understanding of the current implementation of health promotion (primordial and primary) strategies across public health units and key stakeholders with specific focus on primordial prevention (SDOHs, ACES), and primary prevention (e.g., school-based like Youth Mental Health and Addiction Champions (YMHAC) collaborative initiative in schools and family-centered programs like handle with care in collaboration with CMHA) and compare the current real-life implementation of these strategies with the evidence-based strategies in the literature to assess the efficacy effectiveness gap. In addition, we will look at the risk and protective factors affecting opioid and illicit drug use among youth aged 15-24 years of age.

The project is supported by the COMOH Drug/Opioid Poisoning Crisis (DOPC) Working Group, which identified prevention as a priority for local and provincial action.

##### **October 14, 2022**

alpha has sent a [letter to the Minister](#) that communicates our endorsement in principle of the Drug Strategy Network of Ontario (DSNO) *Solutions to End the Drug Poisoning Crisis in Ontario: Choosing a New Direction* as it aligns with Resolution A22-4.

**October 6, 2022**

The COMO Drug / Opioid Poisoning Crisis Working Group, upon request of the CMOH, has provided [recommendations](#) for revisions to the Ontario Public Health Standards as they pertain to this crisis.

**July 18, 2022**

alPHa has sent a separate [communication to the Minister of Health](#) on this specific resolution.

**July 18, 2022**

[Letter](#) sent to the Minister of Health from the alPHa President that introduces this and the four other resolutions that were passed by our members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

**[RESOLUTION A22-5: Indigenous Harm Reduction: A Wellness Journey](#)**

THAT the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recognize the critical importance of working with Indigenous communities to better understand Indigenous harm reduction and adopt policies, practices and programs for harm reduction that are culturally safe and rooted in community-knowledge and needs;

AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies advocate with Indigenous partners to the Minister of Health and other appropriate government bodies for additional funding to support Indigenous harm reduction including additional Indigenous Treatment and Healing Centres.

**Developments on A22-5:**

**July 18, 2022**

alPHa has sent a separate [communication to the Minister of Health](#) on this specific resolution.

**July 18, 2022**

[Letter](#) sent to the Minister of Health from the alPHa President that introduces this and the four other resolutions that were passed by our members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.



Association of Local  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Agencies

**BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION  
Annual General Meeting Report  
2022-2023**

***alPHa BOH Section Executive, alPHa Board, and alPHa Executive Committee:***

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Boards of Health (BOH) Section Executive members in their leadership role are integral in the work of the alPHa Board and alPHa Executive Committee. This year proved to be very busy and our areas of focus and activities this term included COVID-19 recovery and the Base Budget Working Group, compliance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), Policy and Procedure input and compliance review. Our section worked with the alPHa Board as a whole in building stronger relations with CMOH, PHO, OH, OPHA, AMO and others including input to the Elections Primers created for both the provincial and municipal elections, revisions and release of the Orientation Manual, the Governance Toolkit, and the PH Directory and After Hours Emergency List, public health policy, and numerous strategic planning initiatives. During this term the BOH Section Executive contributed extensively to alPHa correspondence and public policy positions. These can be found [here](#).

***alPHa BOH Section Executive:***

alPHa BOH Section Executive members are dedicated and responsive to the ever-changing circumstances to fully support alPHa's unified and cohesive voice of Ontario's public health system. Your alPHa BOH Section representatives are:

- **alPHa President**, Trudy Sachowski, North West Region
- **alPHa BOH Section Chair**, Carmen McGregor, South West Region
- **alPHa BOH Section Vice-Chair**, René Lapierre, North East Region
- **alPHa Treasurer**, Wess Garrod, East Region
- Andy Mitchell, replaced by Bob Chapman, East Region
- Stephanie Donaldson, replaced by Anu Sriskandarajah, Toronto
- Maureen Wilson, Central West Region

***alPHa BOH Section Executive and BOH Section Membership Meetings:***

The BOH Section Executive met via teleconference on September 13, 2022, November 24, 2022, January 11, 2023, March 8, 2023, and May 10, 2023. Our Section also participated in the regularly scheduled alPHa Board meetings throughout the 2022 and 2023 term.

***alPHa BOH Section and alPHa Communications:***

Together, with alPHa staff, the BOH Section Executive is prompt and responsive to all members' inquiries and has contributed to alPHa's monthly newsletter *Information Break* and alPHa's Infographics, these can be easily found on the alPHa [website](#). These are very effective tools that keep alPHa membership apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislative changes, alPHa activities, consultation opportunities, correspondence, and upcoming events. alPHa also distributes Ministry of Health Situation

Reports and other critical and time-sensitive notifications to Boards of Health Section members. The alPHA communications system has proven to be highly effective in reaching alPHA members. Thank you to each of the board-delegated administrative contacts who disseminate information through their contact lists and have worked hard to help keep alPHA members informed.

The BOH Section communications are in compliance with the alPHA Constitution, by-laws, and policies to support all Boards of Health Section members in their leadership and legislated governance roles. Thank you to the many members who took time to communicate and provide input to alPHA and to their respective BOH Regional Representatives for the consideration of the BOH Section Executive. All boards are welcomed and encouraged to continue to contribute by contacting alPHA's Executive Director Loretta Ryan at: [loretta@alphaweb.org](mailto:loretta@alphaweb.org)

**alPHA BOH Section Executive Engagement, Outreach and Collaboration:**

Numerous alPHA BOH Section members have contributed in various ways over the past year. Our President, Trudy Sachowski, along with the Chair of the Affiliate Section, Cynthia St. John, were featured panelist at last year's AMO/AGM Conference entitled: "Public Health COVID-19 Learnings – informing modernization and Beyond." Trudy Sachowski and Wess Garrod participated in the Base Budget Working Group. Trudy Sachowski and Carmen McGregor along with our Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, attended and participated in Chronic Disease Day at Queen's Park. alPHA President Trudy Sachowski also moderated a session at the TOPIC Conference, which was the Opening Keynote with Dr. James Makokis, and the NOMA conference where she had the opportunity to moderate a session conducted by none other than our Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, and Dan Nicholson, Manager, Community Planning, Planning Division at the City of Toronto as Keynote Speakers on *The Public Realm: Planning and Public Health*. Trudy Sachowski has also been sought out by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and has been added to the Health Task Force where Loretta Ryan is also a member.

The BOH Section Executive collaborates with public health partners and plays a supportive role in alPHA's strategic discussions. BOH Section Executive members, as part of the alPHA Executive Committee, work closely with alPHA's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Kieran Moore, and the Ontario Medical Association in regular meetings and communication initiatives. BOH Section Executive members who are representatives of municipalities, continue to build upon a strong and substantial relationship between alPHA and AMO.

Special thank you to: alPHA Executive Director Loretta Ryan for her leadership and dedication, Gordon Fleming, alPHA Manager of Public Health Issues for his continual support, and Melanie Dziengo, Communications Coordinator, for her many contributions.

Most importantly, thank you to each of you for your dedication to local public health and for supporting alPHA as a cohesive and unified voice of Ontario's public health system.

Respectfully submitted,

**Carmen McGregor**  
**Chair, alPHA BOH Section, South West Region Representative**



**COUNCIL OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH SECTION  
Annual General Meeting Report  
2022-2023**

As Chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section (COMOH), and on behalf of my fellow 2022-23 COMOH Executive members (Drs. Paul Roumeliotis, Alexander Summers, Penny Sutcliffe, Lianne Catton, Hsiu-Li Wang, Vera Etches, and Charles Gardner), I am pleased to provide this report to the Annual General Meeting of the ALPHA membership.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be the backdrop for much of this period, Ontario's local public health agencies were able to return to many of the routine activities that were suspended while virtually all resources were devoted to responding to the COVID-19 emergency. In so doing, we have identified significant capacity issues due to the backlog of public health programs and services as well as substantial budget pressures. We are certainly relieved to be out of the perpetual emergency response that characterized the first two years of the pandemic, but this transitional time has presented challenges of its own and we are acting to meet them.

**COMOH Executive Committee 2023-24**

With the conclusion of my term as COMOH Section Chair, I am very pleased to report the following slate of Officers and Regional Representatives will be presented for endorsement by the Council at its June 14 annual meeting as the COMOH Section Executive Committee and COMOH's representatives on the ALPHA Board of Directors for the coming year:

<b>Chair</b>	Central West	Hsiu-Li Wang
<b>Past Chair</b>	Toronto	Eileen de Villa
<b>Vice Chair</b>	North	Lianne Catton
	Southwest	Alexander Summers
	East	Vera Etches
	Central East	Pepi McTavish
<b>ALPHA President</b>	Ex officio	Charles Gardner (Nominee; TBC by 2023-24 ALPHA Board).

**COMOH Priorities for 2022-2023**

As conversations about recovery unfolded, it became clear that, after over two years of being in a nearly entirely reactive mode, strategic thinking about the future of public health was imperative.

It was decided early in the term that COMOH's focus would be on advancing and demonstrating the value of public health within the current political context, using the priority issues that were identified for immediate public health action (outlined in the [ALPHA Public Health Resilience paper](#)) as a foundation for discussion. We also made steps towards fostering positive and collaborative relationships between the OCMOH, COMOH and PHO leadership to facilitate thinking and working as a system. We are pleased

to report the establishment of the Public Health Leadership Table, which will be the forum for these groups to engage in discussion and planning for the system going forward.

Issues that were raised and discussed by COMOH were instrumental in informing important ALPHA activities and products, including the excellent infographics, budget submissions, and advocacy correspondence. The ALPHA Base Budget Working Group, which was convened to gather detailed information on public health funding requirements, also had its origins in COMOH Section discussions around current funding uncertainties, and these continue to be active at the ALPHA Board.

### **COMOH Section Meetings**

The COMOH Section Executive Committee met over a dozen times this year, ensuring emerging issues were dealt with in a timely and focused manner. The COMOH Section was also given plenty of opportunities to continue the collective engagement that was reinforced during the emergency response. In addition to the five regular Section meetings, we modified the previously weekly COMOH COVID-19 forum into a monthly check-in on public health priority issues. Such frequent engagement was time-consuming but extremely valuable in serving the strategic objectives of the Section and the Association.

We were also very pleased to have participated in the "Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR)" workshop in November. Normally aimed at members of the Canadian Armed Forces to support mental health and resilience, the parallels of our long "deployment" during the pandemic response were recognized by the Canadian Forces Health Services and their workshop was adapted. The extraordinary value of this was such that it was further adapted and offered to the broader ALPHA membership in February.

### **COVID-19**

While the near-exclusive focus on COVID-19 came to an end this year, response activities are expected to become part of our routine, and we continued to benefit from the ongoing assistance from dozens of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residents (PHPMRs), seconded public health physicians, and former/retired COMOH Section members.

COMOH Section COVID-19 Issues Working Groups continued to address specific issues related to the pandemic response and provided advice to inform provincial strategies. I would like to single out two for special recognition:

- **Vaccine Working Group** – Lead: Vera Etches. This group has concluded its activities and the importance of its advice to the province for the effective and equitable implementation of COVID-19 vaccine programs cannot be overstated.
- **Schools Working Group** – Lead: Allison Chris. This group discussed approaches to ensuring that schools remained as safe as can be. This group has also concluded its activities, but the COVID-19 (and other respiratory disease) related discussions will continue within the existing COMOH-CODE partnership (see below).

### **Other COMOH Section Working Groups**

The **Drug and Opioid Crisis Working Group** (Lead: Lisa Simon, SMDHU) remains active in addressing this critical public health priority, meeting regularly to review evidence, engaging with external partners, and entering into a partnership with Public Health Ontario's Community Opioid/Overdose Capacity Building ([COM-CAP](#)) initiative. ALPHA's resolutions on decriminalization ([A19-3](#)) and the opioid crisis ([A22-4](#)) are foundational to this group's work.

The **Digital Health Steering Committee** (Lead: Nicholas Brandon, Peel) is resuming its activities, with a view to supporting Ministry initiatives in improving digital data management to serve public health activities in infectious disease management.

A **TB Working Group** (Lead: Elizabeth Rea - TPH) will develop advice on key components for a coordinated TB system ensuring high-quality public health and clinical TB prevention and care for all in Ontario.

The **Ontario Health Teams Working Group** (Leads: Vera Etches, OPH; Elizabeth Richardson, Hamilton) is resuming activities related to examining principles for how public health units and OHTs should work together.

**CODE-COMOH Initiative:** (COMOH Co-Chair – Dr. Allison Chris, AMOH, Toronto). This partnership between the COMOH Section and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education is starting to resume regular activities and includes participants from the Ministry of Education.

**alPHa and COMOH Section Climate Change Liaison:** (alPHa and COMOH Section Liaison - Dr. Charles Gardner, MOH, SMDHU). Updates are available on the alPHa [Climate Change Resource Page](#).

Several other working groups that all but ceased activity during the past two years will resume their work as circumstances allow.

### **2023 Distinguished Service Awards**

It is with great admiration that I on behalf of my COMOH Section colleagues congratulate Dr. Charles Gardner on his well-deserved recognition as the COMOH Section recipient of the 2023 alPHa Distinguished Service Award (DSA). We are especially proud to recognize his contributions and leadership as COMOH Section Chair during the latter part of the COVID-19 emergency and his extraordinary ongoing wisdom, advice, and support.

We are also pleased alPHa has nominated Dr. Brian Schwartz for a special DSA, in recognition of his exceptional contributions to public health in this province, including his rock-solid support for local public health in his years on the PHO Leadership Team.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of COMOH Section members who generously shared time and expertise to various COMOH Section initiatives, as well as the COMOH Section Executive and alPHa Board for their support during what was an active and challenging year. I would also like to thank Loretta Ryan, Gord Fleming, and Melanie Dziengo from the alPHa office for their invaluable support.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health



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**AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**Annual Report 2022-2023**  
**June 13, 2022**

The Affiliates group associated with ALPHA have had a very busy year since our last ALPHA Annual General Meeting in June 2022. The members representing the Affiliate organizations on the ALPHA Board of Directors for 2022-2023 include:

AOPHBA (Business Administrators):	Cynthia St. John
APHEO (Public Health Epidemiologists):	Sarah Collier (replaced by Emma Tucker)
ASPHIO (Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors):	Steven Rebellato
HPO (Health Promotion Ontario):	Susan Stewart
OAPHD (Public Health Dentistry):	Paul Sharma
ODPH (Ontario Dietitians in Public Health):	Kerry Schubert-Mackey (replaced by Carolyn Doris)
OPHNL (Public Health Nursing Leaders):	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin

The Affiliate organizations met as a group throughout the year. Loretta Ryan, as Executive Director, provides key ALPHA updates at these meetings. While the Affiliate groups are not part of an ALPHA Section, each Affiliate has worked tirelessly not just in their own association's work (as evidenced in their corresponding reports below) but also in support of ALPHA and its objectives. Together with ALPHA's Sections, the Affiliates supported several ALPHA advocacy initiatives on subject matters such as:

- the value of adequate and stable funding in public health and the corresponding return on investment in lessening the burden on health care and on increasing economic vitality in communities across Ontario;
- the pre-budget submission and the financial requirements for strong local public health in Ontario;
- the creation of ALPHA's first infographic highlighting the successes of local public health related to vaccination;
- the value of public health professional disciplines including nursing leadership;
- the need for warning labels on alcoholic beverages;
- appreciation for the current federal dental program but also the need for universal access to preventative and treatment dental health services for all Canadians;
- the importance of restrictions on marketing food high in sodium, sugars, and saturated fats;
- the value of student nutrition partnership work so every child has adequate and safe food that contributes to their learning;
- the value of provincial appointees on local boards of health and timely appointee confirmation;
- appreciation for the CMOH report re: preparedness for infectious outbreaks and pandemics;
- the need for standard sociodemographic data collected in all appropriate databases; and
- endorsement in principle of the Drug Strategy Network of Ontario (DSNO) *Solutions to End the Drug Poisoning Crisis in Ontario*.

This past year continues to be an extraordinary time in public health. What started out as a global public health emergency in March 2020, continues with both a pandemic response mindset but also a recovery mindset. In the midst of all of this, the Affiliate representatives continue to bring their very best to their own network/association, to their local public health unit, and to alPHa, resulting in a public health system that is richer as a result of their expertise, energy, and passion.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia St. John, President, Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators  
Member, alPHa Board of Directors  
Member, alPHa Executive

**The following is a summary of key activities in 2022 to 2023 for each Affiliate group.**

**ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATORS – AOPHBA – Cynthia St. John**

On behalf of the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators (AOPHBA), I am pleased to submit a brief synopsis of the Association's activities over the past year. AOPHBA is comprised of approximately eighty members from the thirty-four health units in Ontario. The makeup of its membership includes different leadership disciplines in areas of finance, human resources, corporate services, strategic, and organizational leadership.

This past year, the Association's members have spent considerable energy supporting the effective restart of programs and services in health units across Ontario. This work is done in a new era – the start of a COVID-19 recovery era. With that comes significant work in the areas of staff retention and recruitment, quality improvement, and performance reporting all with considerable strain on public health funding and resources. The AOPHBA remains committed to being a strategic voice, advocate, and relationship builder between its members and the various stakeholders that help determine effective leadership and support of public health programming and service delivery.

With a 3+ year pandemic not seen in a generation, our Association members continue to rise to the occasion and this Association looks forward to supporting their goals.

**ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGISTS IN ONTARIO - APHEO – Emma Tucker**

The Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) is devoted to advancing and promoting the discipline and professional practice of epidemiology in Ontario public health units since 1991.

Membership: During 2022, APHEO had 302 active members (166 full, 127 affiliate, 9 student).

Key 2022 activities:

- Supported public health epidemiology practice, capacity, and inter-agency communication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Endorsed the COMOH Section recommendation for standardized sociodemographic data collection.
- Increased engagement on the design & decision-making for the new diseases of public health significance data system to ensure local epidemiologists' perspective/expertise.

Key 2023 priorities:

- Supporting public health epidemiologists through pandemic recovery, including advocating for updated data holdings and monitoring of secondary health consequences.
- Active engagement with provincial organizations (Ministry of Health, PHO, Ontario Health, ICES) to enhance data and epidemiology capacity.
- Collaborating with our new Ontario Health Liaison to explore opportunities on shared priorities.
- Supporting the Ministry of Health in its vision & plan for a data and digital platform approach for the public health system.
- Planning a 2024 in-person conference.
- Incorporating APHEO.
- Re-establishing the Core Indicators workgroup and enhancing current APHEO core indicators.

For more information about APHEO: <http://www.apheo.ca>.

### **ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY – OAPHD – Paul Sharma**

The Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry has spent the past year focusing on the following issues:

- Provided advice and expertise regarding the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan and the children/youth programs including Healthy Smiles Ontario;
- Provided advice and feedback regarding the Federal Dental Care Plan for the Ontario context;
- Provided leadership regarding the remobilization of dental public health programs, and;
- Responded to community water fluoridation challenges.

The main focus of our advocacy efforts continues to be around improving access to dental care.

Activities in this area include:

- Ensuring Ontario context is understood and included in the implementation of the Federal Dental Care Plan (children, adults, and seniors), and;
- Community water fluoridation.

### **HEALTH PROMOTION ONTARIO – HPO – Susan Stewart**

On behalf of Health Promotion Ontario (HPO), I am pleased to submit a brief synopsis of the members' activities over the past year.

HPO annually recognizes excellence in health promotion practice and this year, a new category was added for health promotion initiatives projects. A virtual ceremony was held in January to award the Lori Chow Memorial Award to:

Individual Award: Mary Ellen Prange, Public Health Dietitian, Hamilton Public Health

Project Award: Faith Leader Mental Health Skills and Capacity Training Initiative, Ottawa Public Health.

HPO has worked collaboratively with Public Health Ontario to launch the Health Promotion Foundations Course at TOPHC. HPO members were part of the advisory committee for this launch and participated in a panel discussion on health promotion at TOPHC.

HPO has been working hard behind the scenes to plan the next webinar series. This upcoming three-part series is titled, *Health Promotion in a New Era: The Skills We Need for a Changing World*, and will cover

topics including advocacy, inter-sectoral partnerships, and knowledge-translation and storytelling.

Health Promotion Canada is re-inventing itself and is moving away from provincial chapters. HPO is working collaboratively with Health Promotion Canada to ensure a smooth transition for HPO members.

### **ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING LEADERS – OPHNL – Jennifer Vickers-Manzin**

In 2022, OPHNL prioritized completing the [School Focused Nurses Initiative Evaluation](#) and [Recommendations](#) to document lessons learned from the implementation of this program during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

In addition, OPHNL held a virtual AGM where members voted to reaffirm the Association's [mission](#). Further recovery planning discussions occurred during facilitated sessions with the OPHNL Chief Nursing Officer Network Group. OPHNL's recovery work has involved reflection on lessons learned during the pandemic, the unique and broad role of public health nurses (PHNs), the full mandate of public health, innovative solutions to address service delivery backlogs, and planning for the future. In 2023, the reaffirmed mission and themes emerging from recovery planning discussions will be the basis for OPHNL's Strategic Planning work.

OPHNL continues to build strategic relationships and alignment with key public health and nursing associations such as ALPHA, OPHA, and RNAO. Additionally, OPHNL has established a relationship with the Provincial Chief Nursing Officer (PCNO) with a goal to provide the PCNO with consultation on issues related to public health nursing.

In May 2023, OPHNL released documents highlighting the important contributions of PHNs and ALPHA provided a [letter of support](#) of OPHNL's [Recommendation Information Sheet](#).

### **ONTARIO DIETITIANS IN PUBLIC HEALTH – ODPH – Carolyn Doris**

On behalf of the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH), I am pleased to submit this overview of members' activities over the past year. The focus of ODPH and our members has been recovery and returning to public health nutrition priorities that are connected throughout the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Key activities for 2022-2023 included:

- Developing a workplan to support the ODPH Strategic Plan with a focus on recovery.
- Conducting a survey to determine RD position status at health units.
- Resuming provincial ODPH Workgroups that bring Registered Dietitians together to work collaboratively. Workgroups include Body Diversity and Health Equity, Child Care, Family Health Nutrition, Food Insecurity, Food Literacy, Food Systems, Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings, and School Nutrition.
- Forming three new Community of Practice Groups focused on anti-racism in dietetics, eating disorder prevention and You're the Chef programming.

ODPH currently has 162 members representing local public health agencies.

Thank you to Kerry Schubert-Mackey for her contributions on behalf of ODPH to ALPHA over the past few years.

For more information about ODPH visit [odph.ca](http://odph.ca). Follow us on Twitter [@RDsPubHealthON](https://twitter.com/RDsPubHealthON)

**ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS OF ONTARIO - ASPHIO** – Steven  
*Rebellato*

On behalf of the **Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPHIO)**, I am pleased to submit a brief synopsis of the Association's activities for the previous year. The following updates are provided for the alPHa Annual General meeting from the 2022-2023 reporting period.

ASPHIO has focused its efforts for the reporting period in recovery efforts and a return to routine operations under the Ontario Public Health Standards by supporting its membership with education, knowledge exchange and training. Further, ASPHIO's Board of Directors, including its members, have been engaged with several public health partners including CIPHI, OPHA, Conestoga College, and Toronto Metropolitan University in the development of a white paper, *Highlighting the Vital Role of Public Health Inspectors with a Responsive and Effective Public Health Workforce*. The paper will provide an overview of programs and services delivered by public health inspectors, the current condition of the public health inspector workforce, and the versatility they demonstrated throughout the pandemic. The final report is anticipated to be released in the late spring 2023 and will include recommendations for continuing to support the public health inspection profession recognizing its importance to the public health infrastructure.



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**alPHa Board of Directors Record of Attendance 2022-2023**

Designation	Director	Region/Organization	# of Meetings Attended (of 6)
BOH	Trudy Sachowski	North West Region	6
BOH	Wess Garrod	East Region	5
BOH	Carmen McGregor	South West Region	6
BOH	Maureen Wilson	Central West Region	5
BOH	René Lapierre	North East Region	2
BOH	Bob Chapman** (replaced Andy Mitchell)	Central East Region	0
	Andy Mitchell (replaced by Bob Chapman)	Central East Region	2
BOH	Anu Sriskandarajah** (replaced Stephanie Donaldson)	Toronto	1
	Stephanie Donaldson (replaced by Anu Sriskandarajah)	Toronto	3
COMOH	Dr. Charles Gardner	Central East Region	6
COMOH	Dr. Paul Roumeliotis	East Region	6
COMOH	Dr. Eileen de Villa	Toronto	5
COMOH	Dr. Alexander Summers	South West Region	6
COMOH	Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang	Central West Region	5
COMOH	Dr. Lianne Catton** (replaced Dr. Penny Sutcliffe)	North Region	1
	Dr. Penny Sutcliffe (replaced by Lianne Catton)	North Region	5
COMOH	Dr. Vera Etches	East Region	6
Affiliate	Paul Sharma	OAPHD	6
Affiliate	Cynthia St. John	AOPHBA	5
Affiliate	Emma Tucker** (replaced Sarah Collier)	APHEO	4
	Sarah Collier	APHEO	2
Affiliate	Steven Rebellato	ASPHIO	6
Affiliate	Susan Stewart	HPO	5
Affiliate	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin	OPHNL	6
Affiliate	Carolyn Doris** (replaced Kerry Schubert-Mackey)	ODPH	1
	Kerry Schubert-Mackey (replaced by Carolyn Doris)	ODPH	5
Cross Appointment	Kevin Churchill** (replaced Lisa Demaline)	OPHA	2
	Lisa Demaline (replaced by Kevin Churchill)	OPHA	2

\* Includes 6 meetings of the 2022-2023 alPHa cycle, i.e. June 15, 2022; July 15, 2022; September 29, 2022; November 10, 2022; February 23, 2023, and April 14, 2023.

\*\*Appointed mid-term Note: This does not include the final meeting of the Board that took place on June 9, 2023.