



2023 aPHa Winter Symposium

Speaker Biographies

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

FRIDAY, February 24th



Trudy Sachowski

Trudy Sachowski is a true champion for public health having dedicated countless hours over the past several years to public health and in the neighbouring sectors of healthcare and education. Since her 2013 appointment to the Northwestern Board of Health, Trudy has remained steadfast in her commitment to improving the health outcomes of the people of Northwestern Ontario and across the province. Appointed to the aPHa Board in 2016 as the Northwest Region representative, she enthusiastically provides leadership and advocacy for local public health. Prior to her current position as President of the aPHa Board of Directors, she has held the offices of Vice-President of the aPHa Board from 2021-2022, Board of Health Section Chair from 2017 to 2021 and aPHa Board of Health Section Vice-Chair in 2016. Trudy is an Ontario Volunteer Service Award recipient. Her volunteerism includes having served as the Chair of the Ontario Parent Council, Chair of the Northwestern Healthy Living Partnership, Chair of the Dryden Public Library Board, Vice-Chair of the Northwestern Early Years Steering Committee, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Points North Family Health Team. Of recent note, is her volunteer commitment to the Northwestern Health Unit's COVID-19 mass immunization clinics. Trudy exemplifies exceptional qualities of leadership and has shown exemplary devotion to public health both locally and provincially and as such was awarded aPHa's 2022 Distinguished Service Award. Trudy Sachowski believes in the work of public health and is driven to contribute her time, knowledge, influence, and passion to move this work forward for the betterment of the people of Ontario.



Hon. Doug Ford

Doug Ford is the Premier of Ontario. He was also elected as the MPP for Etobicoke-North in 2018. Previously, Doug Ford served as Toronto city councillor from 2010-2014, and was vice-chair of the Budget Committee, where he delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. While on city council, Ford served on the board of Build Toronto, and was a director of the Canadian National Exhibition. He also served on the Civic Appointments Committee and the Government Management Committee at Council. A dedicated community leader, successful businessman with Deco Labels and passionate advocate for the people, Doug's commitment to public service runs in the family. Three generations of Fords have served the people of Ontario in elected office. Doug is a life-long resident of the community of Etobicoke, and lives there with his wife Karla and four daughters. His commitment to public service includes over 20 years of dedicated work with the Toronto West Rotary Club and serving as a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Hon. Sylvia Jones

Sylvia Jones serves as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Dufferin–Caledon. She is currently Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. Minister Jones previously served as Solicitor General from 2019-2022, where she championed public safety initiatives, including leading the country with an anti-human trafficking strategy and legislation, and passing Canada's toughest animal protection legislation. Minister Jones has lived in Dufferin-Caledon for over 30 years with her husband, David.



Dr. Theresa Tam

Dr. Theresa Tam was named Canada's Chief Public Health Officer on June 26, 2017. She is a paediatric infectious disease specialist with expertise in immunization, emergency preparedness and global health security. Dr. Tam obtained her medical degree from the University of Nottingham in the U.K. She completed her paediatric residency at the University of Alberta and her fellowship in paediatric infectious diseases at the University of British Columbia. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has over 55 peer-reviewed journal publications in public health. She is also a graduate of the Canadian Field Epidemiology Program. Dr. Tam has held several senior leadership positions at the Public Health Agency of Canada, including as the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer and the Assistant Deputy Minister for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control. During her 25 years in public health, she provided technical expertise and leadership on new initiatives to improve communicable disease surveillance, enhance immunization programs, strengthen health emergency management and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. She has played a leadership role in Canada's response to public health emergencies including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), pandemic influenza H1N1 and Ebola. Dr. Tam has served as an international expert on a number of World Health Organization committees and has participated in multiple international missions related to SARS, pandemic influenza and polio eradication.



Colin Best

Colin Best is the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a Halton Regional Councillor. He has been involved in his community of Milton in many ways. He has served on Milton council for 33 years and Halton council for the past 19 years. He has served on the AMO Board for six years and the Executive for the past four years chairing the Regional and Single Tier Caucus representing 32 per cent of Ontario's population. He has also chaired the AMO Health Task Force for the last two years. On Regional council Colin is the past Chair of the Planning and Public Works Committee and previously the Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. Also serving on the Agricultural, Natural Heritage and Joint Waste advisory committees, Children's Aid Society and Police Services Board. On Local Council Colin is the past Chair of the Budget Committee and current serves on the Downtown Milton Business Improvement Area Board and Milton Hydro Board. Previously he has served on the Milton Public Library Board, Community Services Advisory, Heritage and Town Hall expansion committees. Colin is a volunteer member of the Milton Transitional Housing Board, Santa Claus Parade Committee, Friends of Milton District Hospital, Campbellville Community Association and other local groups.



Allan O'Dette

Allan O'Dette, MBA, ICD.D, is the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Ontario Medical Association, representing the political, economic, and clinical interests of Ontario's 43,000 physicians. With a record of success in leading change and organizational renewal, Allan has more than 30-years of experience and a diverse range of skills in media, sales, marketing, financial oversight, large projects, public policy, and government relations. Prior to leading the OMA, Allan was Ontario's first chief investment officer, tasked with founding and leading a one-stop agency to attract and retain foreign investment for the province. In this role, he attracted billions of dollars in new investment to Ontario that created thousands of jobs. From 2011 to 2017, he was president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, where he led the modernization of Canada's largest and most influential business association, representing over 60,000 members with more than 2.5 million employees. Allan is an entrepreneur with more than 25 years experience in progressive leadership roles in the bio-pharmaceutical sector. Passionate in support of Canadian business and his community, he has served on numerous private and not-for-profit boards. Allan was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to his community and his philanthropic activities.



Steini Brown

Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown is the Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Prior to becoming Dean, Steini was the Director of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and the Dalla Lana Chair of Public Health Policy also at the University. Other past roles include senior leadership roles in policy and strategy within the Ontario Government, founding roles in start-up companies, and extensive work on performance measurement. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.



Carmen McGregor

Carmen is a Municipal Councillor with Chatham-Kent first elected in 2014 and has managed her husband's Law Practice for the past 20 years. She joined the alPHA Board in June 2015 as the South West region's Boards of Health Representative and retains that position to this day. She has served the alPHA board as Treasurer in 2015, Vice President in 2016, President in 2017, 2019 & 2020 and Past President in 2018 and 2021. Currently she serves as the Chair of the Board of Health Section on the alPHA Board and Executive Committee. Prior to municipal council, Carmen was a publicly elected School Board Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board for 11 years, serving as Vice Chair, Chair and a Director and Vice President to the Ontario School Board Assoc. (OPSBA). Along with her political career Carmen has a long history committee work and community volunteerism including Branch 18 of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Sydenham Community Curling Club, the Wallaceburg and District Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Chatham-Kent. When not occupied in politics she enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, and she is an accomplished Mixed Media Artist.



Dr. Eileen de Villa

Dr. Eileen de Villa is the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto. Dr. de Villa leads Toronto Public Health, Canada's largest local public health agency, which provides public health programs and services to 2.8 million residents. Prior to joining Toronto Public Health, Dr. de Villa served as the Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel serving 1.4 million residents. Dr. de Villa received her degrees as Doctor of Medicine and Master of Health Science (MHSc) (Health Promotion) from the University of Toronto and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business. Dr. de Villa is also an Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Health at the University of Toronto. Dr. de Villa has authored, published and presented research on issues including public health considerations for city planning and emergency preparedness, communicable and infectious disease control, and public health policy development. Dr. De Villa has been recognized for her leadership and achievements with Faculty Educator awards from the University of Toronto - Public Health and Preventative Medicine Residency Program and the Naimark Award, presented by the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement.



Loretta Ryan

Loretta Ryan is the Executive Director of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies. alPHA provides leadership to the province's boards of health and public health units. In this role, she works closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers to represent the interests of local public health and to collaborate with governments and other health organizations to advocate for healthy public policy and a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in Ontario. Previously, Loretta was the Director of Public Affairs for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute where she provided leadership in the development and delivery of the Institute's public policy and communication efforts, including the Institute's *Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities* initiative.



Dr. Christopher Simpson

Dr. Chris Simpson is Executive Vice President (Medical) and Chief Medical Officer at Ontario Health. He is a past president of both the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). He works clinically as a cardiologist at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and holds a GFT faculty position as Professor in the Queen's University Department of Medicine and School of Policy Studies. From 2016-2021, he served as Vice-Dean (Clinical) in the Queen's Faculty of Health Sciences and as Medical Director of the Southeastern Ontario Academic Medical Organization (SEAMO). Currently, he is serving as co-chair of the CAHS Assessment on Health Human Resources (commissioned by Health Canada).



Paul Sharma

Paul Sharma is the Director for the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention division at Region of Peel-Public Health. Before Peel, Paul was the Manager of the Oral Health programs at Middlesex-London Health Unit and previously Manager in the Department of Oral Health at the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. Paul is also appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. Paul currently sits on the Executive of the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) serving as President. As well, Paul sits on the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) Board of Directors representing OAPHD. Paul's first position in health care was working as a registered dental hygienist in Toronto primarily providing services to individuals living with HIV. Paul has also been involved in dental hygiene education in a teaching and management capacity. Paul has completed his Masters of Science in Dental Public Health from King's College, University of London, in London, England.



Const. Wendi Hughes

Wendi Hughes is a Provincial Liaison Officer for the Ontario Provincial Police. In her role as a Liaison Officer, she works to develop and maintain relationships between the OPP and Indigenous leaders and their communities, as well as any other stakeholder that may be affected by a major event. She has received specialized training in the areas of negotiation and mediation and is required to remain up to date on current events. Wendi became a Police Officer in 2009 with the Ontario Provincial Police. She was first posted to the Prince Edward County detachment, which happens to be her home area. It was here that she realized the value of having honest and respectful relationships with the community being policed. Most of her career with the OPP has been as a frontline officer responding to various calls for service. She has also worked as a detective in the Prince Edward County Crime Unit and with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.



Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang is the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services. From 2004 to 2017, Dr. Wang served as the Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health and her portfolio consisted of providing support and medical leadership primarily to the infectious diseases division, the environmental health division, the emergency preparedness program and the Department's population health surveillance and assessment functions. In her current role, Dr. Wang provides leadership and oversight for all Public Health and Paramedic Services programs in the region, including the direct and indirect supervision of over 500 staff and a budget of over \$80 million. Dr. Wang has also been an assistant professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, since 2008.



Michael Sherar

Michael Sherar leads Public Health Ontario, the provincial agency that provides evidence to inform policy, undertakes public health capacity building, and provides integrated public health laboratory and surveillance systems. Prior to joining PHO, Michael held several senior management positions in the public sector. He was previously the interim Transitional Lead and Chief Corporate Officer for the Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation (TSHC), where he led planning for TSHC to assume operating responsibility for seniors' social housing buildings from the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. Prior to TSHC, Michael spent 17 years at Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), nine of which as President and CEO. He led the expansion of CCO's mandate, built an effective infrastructure to support health system improvement in Ontario and led the smooth transition of CCO to become a division of Ontario Health. Michael received his doctorate in Medical Biophysics from the University of Toronto. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics from Oxford University.



Steven Rebellato

Steven Rebellato is the Vice President for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in the Environmental Health Department. He has his PhD in Public Health from the University of Waterloo. Steven is a part-time Assistant Professor at McMaster University in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, & Impact and Adjunct Professor at the University of Waterloo. Steven is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families in the Region of York and is past-President for ASPHIO, the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario.



Brendan Smith

Dr. Brendan Smith is a Scientist at Public Health Ontario in Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Epidemiology at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. His primary research interests focus on the application of epidemiological methods to estimate the health equity impacts of population health interventions. Most recently, he is co-leading the Ontario Public Health Information Dataset (OPHID) Study, to examine the impacts of funding changes in Ontario's public health system on population health and health equity. He completed his PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Toronto and his Master of Science in Epidemiology at McGill University.



Roman Pabayo

Dr. Roman Pabayo, PhD is a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Social and Health Inequities and Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, School of Public Health. Before migrating west, Dr. Pabayo was a program evaluator at Hamilton Public Health and Toronto Public Health. Along with his team of graduate students, he studies how social inequities are associated with population health and health inequities, particularly among children and adolescents.



Naomi Schwartz

Naomi works as an epidemiologist lead at Public Health Ontario in the department of Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention. She holds an MPH in Epidemiology from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and a PhD in Geography from the University of Toronto. Naomi's research has focused on the social determinants of health, including disability-related inequalities in food insecurity, injury prevention, and substance use.



Dr. Charles Gardner

Dr. Gardner has been the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit since 2005, after having served as MOH with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in general medical practice in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Zimbabwe. Dr. Gardner is a member of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Board of Directors in the role of Vice President/Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) Representative, Central East Region and the past chair of COMOH. He is also a board member of Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada. Dr. Gardner is active personally and professionally on the promotion of health through green, compact, complete, walkable and cycleable communities.



Hon. Stephen Lecce

Stephen Lecce was born in Vaughan, Ontario, the son of Italian immigrants who came to Canada in the late 1950s. His first experience in politics came in his hometown of Vaughan where he was involved in the 1999 election of the late MPP Al Palladini. Stephen was first elected to represent the riding of King-Vaughan as the Member of Provincial Parliament in 2018 and has served as Ontario's Minister of Education since June 2019. Stephen has also served as deputy government House Leader, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, and parliamentary assistant to the Premier. Stephen stands for an inclusive and equitable education system that believes our future, as a province and country, depends on unlocking the full potential of our youth. Stephen is a community leader, who has devoted over half his life to public service. He continues to serve and support the people of King-Vaughan as MPP, and as the former First Vice President of the National Congress of Italian Canadians, an active member of the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and former Youth Education Chair of Vaughan's Royal Canadian Legion (Mackenzie Branch 414). Stephen lives in Vaughan, where he grew up, and remains active in his community.



Dr. Paul Roumeliotis

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit since 2007. He received his medical degree in 1983 at McGill University and trained as a pediatrician at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He was Director of Continuing Medical Education in the Department of Pediatrics and founding Director of Multiformat Health Communications at McGill. Dr. Paul created and directed the Montreal Children's Hospital Asthma Centre and Pediatric Consultation Centre in 1990. He also holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, where he is now an Associate Faculty member. In May 2013, he completed the Advanced Management Diploma program at the Harvard Business School. In February 2018, he received the Canadian Certified Physician Executive (CCPE) credential designation by the Canadian Society of Physician Leaders.



Dr. Kieran Moore

Dr. Moore received his medical degree from the University of Ottawa and subsequently received his specialty certification in Family Medicine as well as Emergency Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He has Master's degrees in Disaster Medicine (DM) and Public Health (PH) as well as a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He has completed a Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Fellowship in Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University.

BOARDS of Health Section



Dr. Alexander Summers

Dr. Alex Summers is the Medical Officer of Health at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. Following medical school at Queen's University, he completed his residency in public health and preventive medicine at the University of Toronto. He also holds a Masters of Public Health with a focus on quantitative methods from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Franger Jimenez

Franger Jimenez is a Workplace Wellness and Health Promotion student at Centennial College. In this program, he is pursuing knowledge to improve the wellbeing of people in and out of their workplace with a holistic approach to their health. He is also the new placement student at alPHa, where he is going to create wellness programs for alPHa members for the next four months. Previously, Franger trained as physician, and he worked on health promotion in Colombia as a medical leader for cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. He treated chronic patients and created health campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles.



Lindsay Jones

Lindsay Jones joined the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as the Director of Policy and Government Relations in October 2022, where she leads advocacy and policy work on behalf of Ontario's municipal governments. Over the past 20 years, she has developed a deep expertise in strategy, policy and government decision-making through progressively senior roles in the Ontario and federal governments in areas such as income security, labour markets and employment, and community infrastructure. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre and the Jane and Finch Centre.



Michael Jacek

Michael Jacek is Senior Advisor to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on health and human service policy. Michael's works collaboratively with alPHA to promote ways to strengthen the local public health system in Ontario. Prior to joining AMO, Michael worked for the City of Toronto in various capacities such as homelessness services, social assistance, corporate governance, and intergovernmental relations. Other experience involved managing a federal government refugee resettlement program for Ontario and providing business development services in a joint federal-provincial agency. Michael has also been an elected union official and active volunteer, including as a board member, with health and social service community agencies in Toronto. His educational background is a master's degree in political science with a primary focus on local government.



Daniela Spagnuolo

Daniela Spagnuolo is a Policy Advisor at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, where her work includes supporting health and human service policy among other policy areas. Daniela has previously worked as a Health Policy Analyst with the College of Family Physicians of Canada, a Research Assistant with Women's College Hospital, and in various roles in food policy research. She currently serves as Community Advisory Committee Chair for a research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council studying innovative community responses and intersectoral collaboration for health and food justice beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Daniela holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration from Toronto Metropolitan University.



James LeNoury

James LeNoury has represented alPHA since 2001. He represented alPHA at the Walkerton Water Inquiry. He has presented regularly at alPHA conferences and written a number of papers for alPHA members. James was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1992 and has specialized in employment and labour law since that time. Prior to attending law school James completed a Masters of Counselling Psychology Degree and worked as a crisis counsellor, and child and family therapist at childrens' mental health centres in Ontario. In his employment and labour law practice he represents a wide range of private and public sector employers and individual employees with respect to employment and labour employment and labour relations legal matters. In recognition of his accomplishment in the Supreme Court of Canada *Wilson v AECL* landmark ruling which affects 10,000 federally regulated employers and 500,000 employees, James was awarded the National HR Employment Lawyer of the Year for 2016.



Monika Tuner

Monika Turner was the Director of Policy for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) from 2010 to 2022. She joined AMO in 2010 after 25 years with the Ontario Government as both a public servant and a political assistant. Monika worked in several provincial ministries including the Ministry of Health twice. From 1998 to 2003, with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), she led a series of key physician compensation negotiations on behalf of the province, including the first set of Emergency Department Alternative Payment Agreements for every hospital in Ontario. In 2006, Monika returned to MOHLTC as the Director of Public Health Standards and managed the development of the Ontario Public Health Standards (2008) and the Initial Report on Public Health (2009). Monika now has her own public policy consulting and facilitation business, Roving Capacity. Her areas of policy expertise include: public health, paramedicine, housing, health, municipal issues and Indigenous relations. Monika did her undergraduate and graduate work in Anthropology at McMaster University, and has a Masters of Law degree (ADR) from Osgoode Law School. She received her Masters of Public Health from the University of Waterloo in 2011.