

AGENDA

2024 alPHa ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS SESSION

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. EST

Thursday, June 6, 2024

200 Victoria St. Toronto, ON M5B 1V8

Chair: Dr. Charles Gardner, President

Resolutions Chair and Parliamentarian: Dr. Robert Kyle

1. **CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Charles Gardner
2. **REVIEW OF AGENDA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** Charles Gardner
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - i. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Charles Gardner
Meeting was held in-person on June 13, 2023. (attached)
 - ii. **PRESIDENT'S AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Charles Gardner/Loretta Ryan
(Excerpt from 2023-2024 Annual Report.)
 - iii. **REPORT ON 2023 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (attached)** Loretta Ryan
 - iv. **BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT (attached)** Carmen McGregor
 - v. **COUNCIL OF ONTARIO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH REPORT (attached)** Hsiu-Li Wang
 - 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** Eileen de Villa
Receipt of the 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements

MOTION:

WHEREAS the alpha Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the 2023-2024 audited financial statements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2023-2024 audited financial statements be received by alpha's Membership as distributed.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2024-2025

Eileen de Villa

MOTION: THAT alpha's Membership approve the appointment of Chaplin & Co. LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants as the organization's auditor for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

6. 2023-2024 alpha BOARD RECOGNITION

Loretta Ryan

7. RESOLUTIONS SESSION

(Please refer to the resolutions package.)

Robert Kyle

8. ADJOURNMENT

Charles Gardner



DRAFT MINUTES

2023 alPHa ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RESOLUTIONS SESSION

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by alPHa President, T. Sachowski, at 10:56 a.m. The Land Acknowledgement was also 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. Gardner, seconded by C. St. John and carried.

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

(i) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting was moved by E. de Villa, seconded by P. Roumeliotis, and carried.

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

Reports were reviewed by T. Sachowski and L. Ryan.

(iii) REPORT ON 2022 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

A report on the 2022 Annual Meeting Resolutions was shared by L. Ryan.

(iv) BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION REPORT

The Boards of Health Section Report was shared by C. McGregor.

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

The Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Report was shared by E. de Villa.

(vi) AFFILIATES REPORT

The Affiliates Report was shared by C. St. John.

MOTION: Approval of the Consent Agenda took place on a motion by T. Sachowski. It was seconded and carried.

4. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

The report of the treasurer was shared by W. Garrod.

A discussion on the appointment of the auditor general for 2023-2024 was held.

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. It was moved by W. Garrod, seconded by H. Wang, and carried.

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

T. Sachowski thanked W. Garrod for his work throughout the year as Treasurer. She also thanked R. Chaplin for attending the AGM.

MOTION: To appoint Chaplin & Co as the Association's auditor for the 2023-2024 fiscal year by W. Garrod, seconded by R. Lapierre, and carried.

6. **2022-2023 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**

No amendments to the Resolution were made. Resolution #A23-01: Voting Delegates Allocation.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution as presented was moved by W. Garrod, seconded by R. Lapierre, and carried.

Amendments were made to the Resolution. Resolution #A23-02: Toward a Renewed Smoking, Vaping, and Nicotine Strategy in Ontario.

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

Amendments were made to the Resolution. Resolution #A23-03: Improving Indoor Air Quality to Prevent Infections and Promote Respiratory Health.

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

Amendments were made to the Resolution. Resolution #A23-04: Ending Underhousing and Homelessness in Ontario.

MOTION: To approve the amended Resolution was moved by C. McGregor, seconded by T. Sachowski, and carried.

No amendments to the Resolution were made. Resolution #A23-05: Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution as presented was moved by P. Sutcliffe, seconded by C. Zimbalatti, and carried.

One late resolution was also heard. Resolution #A23-06: Advocating for a National School Food Program in Canada.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution as presented was moved by W. Garrod, seconded by C. Glenn, and carried.

8. RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The 2023 alPHA resolutions were considered by the membership. Following is the disposition of these resolutions:

Resolution #	Title	Sponsor	Action from Conference
A23-01	VOTING DELEGATES ALLOCATION	alPHA Board of Directors	Carried
A23-02	TOWARD A RENEWED SMOKING, VAPING, AND NICOTINE STRATEGY IN ONTARIO	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	Carried as amended
A23-03	IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY TO PREVENT INFECTIONS AND PROMOTE RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Niagara Region Public Health and Peterborough Public Health	Carried as amended
A23-04	ENDING UNDERHOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN ONTARIO	alPHA Boards of Health Section	Carried as amended
A23-05	MONITORING FOOD AFFORDABILITY IN ONTARIO AND INADEQUACY OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES	Ontario Dietitians in Public Health	Carried
A23-06 (Late Resolution)	ADVOCATING FOR A NATIONAL SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAM IN CANADA	Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Board of Health	Carried

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.



PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT 2023-2024

Throughout the past year, alPHA continued 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.

alPHA's [Board of Directors](#), Boards of Health (BOH) Section, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) Section, and Affiliate organizations actively represent members at a variety of tables and are heard by numerous stakeholders, including government ministries, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario, and Ontario Health. alPHA continues to forge strong alliances with these and other organizations that support the aims of public health.

After more than a year of consultation, and considerable work by staff and volunteers, alPHA's 2024-2027 [Strategic Plan](#) was approved by the Board of Directors on December 12th. Thank you to the membership for your participation in its creation, including at the Fall Symposium on November 24th. The Plan was officially launched at the Winter Symposium on February 16th, representing the culmination of this important work to strengthen local public health. Under the banner of alPHA's Mission: Serving Ontario's local public health agencies for a strong public health system, this new plan aims to convene the leadership of local public health agencies to operate on four core tenants:

- Be the unified voice and a trusted advisor on public health.
- Advance the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations.
- Support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system.
- Deliver member services to local public health leaders.

alPHA will continue to ensure members are supported in their role as public health leaders through the Strategic Plan and that members are actively engaged in the association.

Over the past year, alPHA has 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 by Ontario's public health professionals every day. alPHA has been very active in [corresponding](#) with decision-makers on a variety of public health programs, governance and resource matters; developing [public policy submissions, reports and other communications tools](#) meant to reinforce the value of public health, infographics, and videos; and taking positions on topics identified as priorities by its members via alPHA [Resolutions](#). The common theme of public health's return on investment was strong throughout, highlighting the need for the full resourcing of public health programs and services, both routine and emerging. alPHA continues to use these materials as a foundation for advocacy on behalf of its members for a stable, sustainable, resilient, and locally based public health system in Ontario.

In addition, alPHA continues to provide relevant and timely information to members as well as facilitating ongoing discussion among them regarding developments in public health policy. Our e-mail lists, website and [newsletter](#) keep information and discussions going in between regular meetings (over 50 per year) of alPHA's Board and its subcommittees (i.e. alPHA, COMOH Section, BOH Section, Affiliates, and Executive Committees). Communicating with a unified voice for local public health with these and other methods will be especially important in the coming year, as the Province continues with its Strengthening Public Health initiative that includes voluntary mergers, a review of the Ontario Public Health Standards, and a review of the overall funding model for local public health agencies.

Our Annual Conference and Fall & Winter Symposiums are also important opportunities for the true "collective voice" to assemble. alPHA continues to attract high profile speakers to these events, which this year included the 2023 Fall Symposium, the 2024 Winter Symposium, and workshops on human rights in the workplace, risk communication, climate change, and personal resilience. In addition, a workshop was offered in February 2024 to the EAs and AAs who support our members. alPHA continued rebranding of our "Fitness Challenge" to "Workplace Health and Wellness Month" continues to be a success with [additional resources](#) now being made available throughout the year. The response from the membership has been overwhelmingly positive.

alPHA is pleased that each of Ontario's 34 boards of health is a current member in good standing, and this is essential for continued strength and unity. We are all made stronger through the work we do together, and we thank the members for their ongoing commitment to local public health.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. Gardner".

Dr. Charles Gardner
President



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Ryan".

Loretta Ryan
Executive Director

*To access linked correspondence, original resolutions and other materials, please visit
http://www.alphaweb.org/?page=alPHA_Resolutions*

[Disposition of alPHA Resolutions 2023](#)

[A23-01 - Voting Delegates Allocation](#)

[A23-02 - Smoking, Vaping, and Nicotine Strategy](#)

[A23-03 - Improving Indoor Air Quality](#)

[A23-04 - Underhousing and Homelessness](#)

[A23-05 - Monitoring Food Affordability](#)

[A23-06 - National School Food Program](#)

[A23-01 - Voting Delegates Allocation](#)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies approve the creation of a new allocation category, namely “Population More Than 1,000,000”;
 AND FURTHER that each member public health unit in this category be allocated a total of eight (8) voting delegates.

Developments on A23-2:

Relevant section of the [alPHA Constitution](#) was updated and the practice implemented for this year’s term.

[A23-02 - Smoking, Vaping, and Nicotine Strategy](#)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies write to the Ontario Minister of Health recommending that a renewed and comprehensive smoking, vaping, and nicotine strategy be developed with the support of a multidisciplinary panel of experts, local public health, and people with lived experience;
 AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommend that, in the development of a target for such a provincial strategy, the expert panel examine the sufficiency and inclusiveness of Canada’s Tobacco Strategy target of less than 5% commercial tobacco use by 2035 with respect to all nicotine delivery products;
 AND FURTHER that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies recommend that the pursuit of health equity be foundational to such a provincial strategy;

Developments on A23-2:

April 5, 2024

alPHA has [addressed a response](#) to the CMOH Annual Report to the Minister of Health, with this and five other related alPHA Resolutions attached.

March 28, 2024

Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health's [2023 Annual Report, Balancing Act: An All-of-Society Approach to Substance Use and Harms](#), was released. It is a call for an all-of-society approach to reduce substance use harms and touches upon themes contained in several alPHA Resolutions, including this one.

December 1, 2023

alPHA has sent a [letter](#) to the federal Minister of Health urging regulation of nicotine pouches in context of a comprehensive smoking, vaping and nicotine strategy.

August 15, 2023

alPHA has written a [letter to the Minister](#) introducing Resolution A23-02.

[A23-03 - Improving Indoor Air Quality](#)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to update building codes by incorporating higher standards of air quality such that respiratory diseases, especially COVID-19 and other emerging infections, can be sustainably mitigated in all new buildings, with regular updates to these building codes as best available evidence evolves;

AND FURTHER that alPHA encourages Municipal governments and First Nations governments to consider policy levers to improve indoor air quality in their regions, and particularly to assess and improve of indoor air quality in their own public facilities; ETC.

Developments on A23-3

August 15, 2023

alPHA has written a [letter to the responsible Ministers](#) that introduces alPHA Resolution A23-03.

[A23-04 - Underhousing and Homelessness](#)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHA support AMO's Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness; AND FURTHER THAT alPHA call on the Provincial Government to:

- acknowledge that housing is a social determinant of health and a human right.
- acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis.
- commit to the goal of ending underhousing and homelessness in Ontario.
- work with alPHA, AMO and a broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal.

Developments on A23-4:

September 6, 2023

alPHA has received a [response from the Premier](#) to alPHA's letter that introduces Resolution A23-04.

August 15, 2023

alPHA has written a [letter to the Premier](#) that introduces this resolution.

A23-05 - Monitoring Food Affordability

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that alPHA call on the Province of Ontario to utilize food affordability monitoring results from PHUs in determining the adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward;

AND FURTHER that alPHA call on the Province of Ontario to acknowledge the impact of rising food costs, particularly for individuals living on social assistance incomes, and legislate targets for reduction of food insecurity as part of Ontario's plan for poverty reduction.

Developments on A23-5:

August 15, 2023

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

A23-06 - National School Food Program

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) calls on the Federal Government to:

Follow through on its commitment from 2021 and allocate \$1 billion over five years in Budget 2024 to establish a National School Nutritious Meal Program as a key element of the evolving Food Policy for Canada, with \$200 million per year to contribute to provinces, territories and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners to fund their school programs^{10,13}.

- Enter discussions with Indigenous leaders to negotiate agreements for the creation and/or enhancement of permanent independent distinctions based First Nation, Métis and Inuit school meal programs^{10,13}.
- Create a dedicated school food infrastructure to enhance food production and preparation equipment and facilities so they can reliably and efficiently serve healthy food in adequate volumes^{10,13}.

AND FURTHER that alPHA endorses the work of the Coalition for Healthy School Food; a non-partisan network of more than 260 non-profit organizations advocating for public investment in a universal cost shared nutritious SFP, with consistent national standards¹³.

Developments on A23-6

April 19, 2024

Resolution closed by the alPHa Board of Directors.

Rationale: Complete Satisfaction of Operative Clause(s).

April 5, 2024

alPHa has sent a [letter of congratulations to the Prime Minister](#) for the April 1 announcement.

April 1, 2024

The Prime Minister has [announced](#) the launch of a National School Food Program, with a commitment of \$1B over five years.

October 31, 2023

The federal government has released a ["What we Heard" report](#), which summarizes input from engagements and consultations that will inform the development of a national school food policy. It does not include any references to funding or implementation.

August 15, 2023

alPHa has [sent a letter](#) that introduces this resolution to the federal minister responsible for the implementation of this program.

August 17, 2023

alPHa has completed the process to become an [endorser](#) of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#), as directed in the operative clauses of the resolution.



Association of Local
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**BOARDS OF HEALTH SECTION
Annual General Meeting Report
2023-2024**

alPHA BOH Section Executive Committee, alPHA Board of Directors, 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 of Directors and the alPHA Executive Committee.

This year proved to be very busy and our areas of focus and activities this term included the Ministry directives of Strengthening Public Health that required all boards of health to investigate and determine the possibility of volunteer mergers. The BOH Executive Committee provided input and assisted the Working Group that developed the documents required to meet the compliance with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). A big thank you to Trudy Sachowski from our Section for the tireless amount of time spent on our behalf with the group. The BOH Section Executive Committee supported Policy and Procedure input, compliance, and sessions to renew and update the Strategic Plan.

Our section worked with the alPHA Board of Directors as a whole in building stronger relations with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, Ontario Public Health Association, the Ontario Medical Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and others including input to various Ontario Ministry of Health directives. During this term, the BOH Section Executive Committee contributed extensively to alPHA correspondence and public policy positions. These can be found on our website at <https://www.alphaweb.org>

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:

Carmen McGregor, Southwest Region, alPHA, BOH Section Chair
Rene Lapierre, Northeast Region, alPHA BOH Section Vice-Chair
Wess Garrod, East Region, alPHA, Vice-President
Trudy Sachowski, Northwest Region, alPHA Past-President
Elizabeth Roy, East Region
Maureen Wilson, Central West Region
Abinaya Chandrabalan, Toronto (replaced Anu Sriskandarajah)

alPHA BOH Section Executive Committee and BOH Section Membership Meetings:

The BOH Section Executive met via video conference on September 12, 2023, November 9, 2023, January 16, 2024, March 21, 2024, and May 17, 2024.

The alPHA Boards of Health Section Membership met virtually on November 24, 2023 and February 16, 2024. The next membership meeting is in person on June 7, 2024 at the alPHA 2024 AGM and Conference in Toronto.

Our Section also participated in the regularly scheduled alPHA Board meetings, work group meetings and consultations throughout the 2023 to 2024 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. They are highly 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 updates 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

alPHA BOH Section Executive Engagement, Outreach and Collaboration:

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 Board of Directors Executive Committee, work closely with alPHA's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Dr. Kieran Moore, and the Ontario Medical Association in regular meetings and communication initiatives. BOH Section Executive members, who are primarily representatives of municipalities, continue to build upon a strong and substantial relationship between alPHA and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmen McGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" being more prominent than the last name "McGregor".

Carmen McGregor
Chair, alPHA BOH Section



Association of Local
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COUNCIL OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH SECTION
Annual General Meeting Report
2023-2024

As Chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH), and on behalf of my fellow 2023-24 COMOH Executive Committee colleagues (Drs. Alexander Summers, Lianne Catton, Eileen de Villa, Vera Etches, Pepi McTavish and Charles Gardner), I am pleased to provide this report to the annual general meeting of the alPHA membership.

While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to reverberate, we were largely able to turn our attention back to the central purpose of our mandate, working within our communities to deliver the routine programs and services that are designed to keep us all healthy through a variety of interventions and approaches. At the same time, the province turned its own attention back to transforming Ontario's locally based public health system with its Strengthening Public Health initiative, which was announced in August 2023 and included three elements: voluntary mergers, a review of the Ontario Public Health Standards, and a review of the current funding formula. This initiative has dominated our collective discussions since and is expected to continue to do so through the coming term.

COMOH Executive Committee 2024-25

With the conclusion of my term as COMOH Chair, I am very pleased to report that the following slate of Officers and Regional Representatives will be presented for endorsement by the Council at its June 7 annual meeting as the COMOH Executive Committee and COMOH's representatives on the alPHA Board of Directors for the coming year. We are especially pleased that continuity will be well preserved at this time, with all but one of our current representatives returning to serve another term.

Officers: Chair (North), Lianne Catton; **Vice Chair** (East), Vera Etches; **Past Chair** (Central West), Hsiu-Li Wang; **alPHA Past President** (ex officio), Charles Gardner; **Regional Reps:** Eileen de Villa (Toronto); Mehdi Aloosh (Southwest); Pepi McTavish (Central East).

COMOH Priorities for 2023-2024

Our term began with refocusing our efforts on our core purpose, alongside strategic thinking about how to serve it in the face of significant capacity issues and the knowledge that the discourse about systemic transformation was likely to reemerge, requiring proactive thinking about the future of public health.

We were very pleased to be able to contribute our expertise to alPHA's "Public Health Matters" campaign, which saw the release of a series of infographics designed to demonstrate the important and extraordinary return on investment of our work. We have in fact been told by the Chief Medical Officer of Health that these, alongside the 2022 [alPHA Public Health Resilience paper](#), were integral to the thinking behind the Strengthening Public Health initiative. We have no doubt that reinforcing these messages as part of alPHA's budget submissions and other advocacy products has also been effective.

We were also pleased with the re-establishment of the Public Health Leadership Table, which will be the forum for systemic level discussions of public health in Ontario. Members of the COMOH Executive also serve as the representatives of the field at this table (PHO and OCMOH are the others), and although we

do not serve as representatives of COMOH or alPha as organizations, this is a convenient mechanism for ensuring that such strategic discussions are well informed in each of these venues.

COMOH Meetings

The COMOH Executive Committee continued to meet once per month, while the COMOH Section reverted to its regular practice of holding meetings adjacent to alPha's Fall and Winter Symposia and its Annual Conference, with two shorter standalone meetings in September and April. With all but one being held online, we have enjoyed robust participation and productive discussions.

COMOH Working Groups (selected)

The **Drug and Opioid Crisis Working Group** (Lead: Lisa Simon, SMDHU) remains active in addressing this critical public health priority. alPha's resolutions on decriminalization ([A19-3](#))- and the opioid crisis ([A22-4](#)) are foundational to this group's work.

The **Digital Solutions Working Group** (Lead: Nicholas Brandon, Peel) supports the advancement of and effective use of digital solutions for service delivery in a coordinated approach for the public health system in Ontario.

CODE-COMOH Initiative: (COMOH Co-Chair – Dr. Allison Chris, AMOH, Toronto). This is a partnership between COMOH and the Council of Ontario Directors of Education continues and includes participants from the Ministry of Education.

A new **Public Health Immunization Working Group**, based on the foundations laid by the now sunset COMOH Covid Vaccine WG, has been struck under the purview of the PHLT, and aims to improve immunization programs more broadly in partnership with the OCMOH and PHO. This will include 5-10 local MOHs/AMOHs and Dr. Vinita Dubey is the local lead.

COMOH 2024 Distinguished Service Award

It is with great admiration that I on behalf of my COMOH colleagues congratulate Dr. Brent Moloughney on his well-deserved recognition as the COMOH recipient of the 2024 alPha Distinguished Service Award (DSA). While his tenure as a member of COMOH was relatively brief, his contributions to the development of major alPha and COMOH positions during his years as a consultant cannot be overstated.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang
Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health



Association of Local
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AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS
Annual General Meeting Report
2023-2024

alPHA's Affiliate member organizations had a very busy year since our last alPHA annual general meeting in June 2023. The current members representing the Affiliate organizations on the alPHA Board of Directors for 2023-2024 include:

AOPHBA (Business Administrators):	Cynthia St. John
APHEO (Public Health Epidemiologists):	Caitlyn Paget (replaced 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):	Carolyn Doris
OPHNL (Public Health Nursing Leaders):	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin

These seven (7) associations that represent alPHA's Affiliates met throughout the last twelve (12) months. Individually, these Associations/Groups have advanced public health's work greatly. Each Association/Group is comprised of dozens of members that represent extensive public health knowledge, experience, and talent. Together, the entire Affiliates group encompasses the widest ranging and largest number of public health disciplines all with the laser focus goal of improving health and well-being of communities across Ontario.

Together with alPHA's two Sections, the Affiliates supported several alPHA initiatives on subject matters including but not limited to:

- supporting the Chief Medical Officer of Health's 2023 annual report calling for an all-of-society approach to substance use and harms,
- emphasizing the value of the new national school food program in Canada,
- the importance of involving the board of health section and the affiliate organizations in the strengthening public health strategy including the OPHS review, the revised funding approach, and the voluntary mergers initiative,
- the 2023 Review of the Child, Youth, and Family Services Act, 2017 and the significance of further investment in early childhood development in Ontario,
- the business case for local public health outlining the return on investment with sustained and sufficient resources to ensure stability in the Ontario public health system,
- the expansion of publicly funded vaccines in Ontario pharmacies and the value of a central vaccine registry, of integrated care for those accessing pharmacies, and the importance of resources to meet the vaccine inventory management needs of these partners,
- the value of improving indoor air quality to prevent infections and promote respiratory health,
- the support of AMO's Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness noting housing is a key determinant of health in Ontario,

- the importance of food affordability and the need for social assistance rates to mirror that in addition to the need for legislative targets to reduce food insecurity, and
- the appreciation of restoration of provincial mitigation funding from the cost-share change in 2020.

alPHa is uniquely poised to continue to further the important work of local public health. The voices of all the members within the association are key to making measurable advancements in public health across Ontario. Our seven (7) Affiliate associations/groups will continue to influence change in the public health landscape so that every member of every community has the same opportunities for optimal health and well-being.

Lastly, the Affiliates group wishes to thank alPHa staff and the alPHa Board of Directors for their leadership and support of the many public health issues tackled this year and for leading through the lens of collaboration recognizing that alPHa's two sections and its Affiliates play an important role in advancing public health priorities across Ontario.

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 2023 to 2024 for each Affiliate group.

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

The Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators (AOPHBA) is a diverse group of public health leaders in a variety of disciplines in local public health agencies. This talented group of business professionals covers a wide area of key public health portfolios such as corporate services, human resources, communications, information technology, finance, and administration.

The Association saw a fair bit of change in membership over the past year, both on the Executive Committee at its last AGM in the fall of 2023, but also in terms of general membership. Recognizing the growing importance of the various business elements needed to effectively lead and service local public health agencies, the information technology discipline was added to the list of allowable memberships with AOPHBA. This means that AOPHBA allows up to five (5) management or senior management level positions (manager, director, CEO, CFO) per local public health agency.

Last year's 2023 Conference and Annual General Meeting was held in beautiful Niagara Falls, kindly hosted by Niagara Public Health. The conference included robust dialogue on the future of public health in Ontario based on the Ministry of Health's Strengthening Public Health strategy, professional development opportunities to strengthen its members' skills and experience, and valuable networking opportunities that allow for strategy sharing and brainstorming. This year will be no exception. Our Association is looking forward to reconnecting, in person, with our colleagues from across the province in Huntsville, Ontario hosted by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. The agenda for this upcoming conference promises to be engaging, thought-provoking, and inspiring. The Conference will include our annual in-person session with the Director and Manager of the Finance and Accountability area of

the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. We will host our Annual General Meeting separately this year, in the fall of 2024 and virtually.

This past year included Association advocacy for the importance of predictable, stable, and adequate funding for local public health agencies, the importance of our Ministry of Health partners involving our members in key provincial strategic work on digital transformation, the upcoming funding approach review, and the development of measurable, consistent, and informative key performance indicators to further strengthen local public health agencies' accountability and inform decision-making. These efforts all align with the Association's strategic pillars. Looking ahead, AOPHBA will also focus on the growing needs of its members in terms of professional development and ability to connect and share information with ease. And with upcoming mergers across the Province, the Association will review its membership structure and associated fees to ensure that it is well equipped for the demands of the future.

It has been a privilege to be a part of such a talented, leaderful, and results-oriented group. I extend my deep appreciation to all of the members of AOPHBA and to alPha for ensuring this Association has a voice within alPha.

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGISTS IN ONTARIO – APHEO – *Caitlyn Paget*

On behalf of the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO), I am pleased to share the highlights of the Association's activities over 2023-2024 reporting year.

APHEO brings together approximately 275 members contributing to evidence-informed decision-making across the province. This past year was busy for our membership in supporting the restoration of public health programs, while integrating COVID-19 into respiratory virus activities. APHEO's membership continues to bring the best available population health assessment and surveillance data, local data collection, and other evidence to support program decisions based on the needs of our local population.

This has been a year of reconnecting our APHEO community, facilitating knowledge exchange through membership forums and events. The Core Indicators project was reestablished and encourages topic-based Communities of Practice for epidemiologists to consult with peers on methodological challenges and discuss key results. APHEO offers vital opportunities to share data innovations.

A silver lining of the pandemic was the lessons learned in our discipline. In the past year, APHEO's members have incorporated advances into all topic areas to better serve their public health units. APHEO continues to contribute this local wisdom towards strategic initiatives in improving our province-wide data ecosystem.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY – OPHAD – *Paul Sharma*

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

- Provided advice and feedback regarding the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan for the Ontario context,
- Provided advice and expertise regarding the Ontario Public Health Standards Review related to oral health and chronic disease matters and what the future of dental public health could look like with the federal treatment program in place,
- Provided leadership pertaining to provincial public health oral 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 Canadian Dental Care Plan (children, adults and seniors) and how current Ontario programs can integrate, 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. The 2024 recipients are:

Individual Award: Dr. Kate Mulligan, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Project Award: Healthy Kids H.O.M.E. (Health on the Move for Equity), Thunder Bay

In October 2023, HPO released their [White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion](#). This paper demonstrates the return on investment of health promotion and recommends a continued strong investment in local health promotion delivered by Ontario's Public Health Units. This White Paper has been shared broadly including a presentation to the Public Health Leadership Table Chronic Disease Prevention Working Group.

This year, HPO embarked on an initiative to engage post-secondary students in careers in health promotion. In November, HPO hosted a webinar entitled *Health Promotion: The Future is Bright*, which increased students' awareness of the practice of health promotion. In March, a second webinar was offered entitled *A Day in the Life of a Health Promoter*. This webinar featured three health promoters working in different organizations and showcased the variety of careers in health promotion.

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

Throughout 2023, OPHNL engaged the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness to develop a multi-year strategic plan. The 2024-2027 OPHNL Strategic Plan was launched in April 2024 with three key strategies: (1) Advancing Public Health Nursing, (2) Providing Meaningful Opportunities for Public Health Nursing Leaders, and (3) Strengthening the Voice of Public Health Nursing Leaders. OPHNL has re-established our work group structure to engage members in the work of the Association and move the Strategic Plan forward. The Strategic Plan can be accessed at <https://ophnl.org/about-us/>

On November 24, 2023, OPHNL hosted an in-person fall workshop to allow for member networking and the development of leadership skills. This workshop included a panel discussion with: Dr. Karima Velji (Provincial Chief Nursing Officer), Dr. Sandra Carroll (Dean, McMaster University School of Nursing), Ruth Schofield (Canadian National Public Health Nursing Postgraduate Program), Dr. Emily Belita (Researcher focused on Public Health Workforce Planning), and Catriona Mill (College of Nurses of Ontario).

The Ontario Ministry of Health has invited OPHNL to take part in the upcoming consultation process related to the Ontario Public Health Standards review. OPHNL Executive Committee will review Ministry provided documents and coordinate a response based on Ministry timelines.

ONTARIO DIETITIANS IN PUBLIC HEALTH – ODPH – Carolyn Doris

On behalf of the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH), I am pleased to submit a brief overview of activities this past year.

ODPH members collaborated through working groups to support knowledge sharing, resource development, and capacity building, with the goal of strengthening efficiencies within Ontario's public health system. ODPH responded to provincial and federal consultations and advocated for underserved populations and professional practice of public health nutrition, including:

- [Updated nutrition guidelines for child care](#) which are linked in Ministry of Education licensing manuals;
- [Letter](#) sent to the National Finance Committee urging support of Bill S-233;
- [Letter](#) to Health Canada highlighting concerns of the history of Canada's Food Guide; and,
- [Partnered with Food Allergy Canada](#) to recommend that specialized infant formula be covered through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program (ODB).

The 19th [International Congress of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) is in Toronto June 2024. The work of ODPH members on food systems, body diversity and health equity, monitoring food affordability and responses to food insecurity, and childcare nutrition recommendations will be presented.

ODPH extended its [Strategic Plan](#) to 2026. Key areas of focus include member support, knowledge translation, partnerships, collective contribution and public relations.

More information about ODPH can be found at www.odph.ca.

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, covering the 2023-2024 reporting period.

ASPHIO has dedicated its efforts to continuing advocacy and representation for health protection and environmental health through the public health inspection profession. Notable communications included support for sustained investment in environmental health programming, public laboratory services, and increasing practicum placements for public health inspectors within LPHAs. Further, ASPHIO remained actively engaged in the OPHS review, providing representation on the Environmental Health Standards Review Committee.

Late in 2023, ASPHIO completed a white paper, "Highlighting the Vital Role of Public Health Inspectors with a Responsive and Effective Public Health Workforce." This paper provided an overview of the programs and services delivered by public health inspectors and included recommendations for continuing to support the public health inspection profession, emphasizing its critical role in the public health infrastructure. The report was presented to the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health shortly after its release and was well received.



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

alPHA Board of Directors Record of Attendance 2023-2024

Designation	Director	Region/Organization	# of Meetings Attended (of 8)
BOH	Wess Garrod	East Region	7
BOH	Trudy Sachowski	Northwest Region	7
BOH	Carmen McGregor	South West Region	7
BOH	Maureen Wilson	Central West Region	4
BOH	René Lapierre	North East Region	2
BOH	Elizabeth Roy	Central East Region	2
BOH	Abinaya Chandrablan** (replaced Anu Sriskandarajah)	Toronto	2
	Anu Sriskandarajah (replaced by Abinaya Chandrablan)	Toronto	4
COMOH	Dr. Charles Gardner	Central East Region	8
COMOH	Dr. Eileen de Villa	Toronto	8
COMOH	Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang	Central West Region	7
COMOH	Dr. Alexander Summers	South West Region	7
COMOH	Dr. Pepi McTavish	Central East Region	7
COMOH	Dr. Lianne Catton	North Region	7
COMOH	Dr. Vera Etches	East Region	8
Affiliate	Cynthia St. John	AOPHBA	8
Affiliate	Caitlyn Paget** (replaced Emma Tucker)	APHEO	3
Affiliate	Emma Tucker** (replaced by Caitlyn Paget)	APHEO	4
Affiliate	Paul Sharma	OAPHD	6
Affiliate	Susan Stewart	HPO	5
Affiliate	Jennifer Vickers-Manzin	OPHNL	5
Affiliate	Steven Rebellato	ASPHIO	7
Affiliate	Carolyn Doris	ODPH	7

** Includes eight meetings of the 2023-2024 alPHA cycle, i.e. June 14, 2023; September 21, 2023; November 23, 2023; December 12, 2023; February 15, 2024, April 4, 2024, April 19, 2024, and May 31, 2024.*

***Appointed mid-term*



Strategic Plan

2024 - 2027

Convening the leadership of local public health agencies to:



Be the unified voice and a trusted advisor on public health



Advance the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations



Support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system



Deliver member services to local public health leaders



alPHA's Mission: Serving Ontario's local public health agencies for a strong public health system

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