

2024 aPHa AGM and Conference

Speakers' Biographies

(IN ORDER OF FIRST APPEARANCE)

WEDNESDAY, June 5



Lori Zuppinger

Lori Zuppinger has recently joined the City of Toronto Archives as an Educator Outreach & Public Programming, after several years at Toronto History Museums as a Historic Interpreter and Program Officer. Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Anthropology and a Master of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto, and has a longstanding passion for using documents, photos and stories to connect people with the past.

THURSDAY, June 6



Dr. Charles Gardner

Dr. Gardner has been the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka District 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 the current President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) Board, and an Ex Officio Member of the Executive of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH). In June 2023 he received aPHa's Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Gardner received the Faculty Educator Award for the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency, University of Toronto, in 2020. 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.



Marc Forgette

Meet Marc Forgette, the founder and lead facilitator for Makatew Workshops, a Certified Aboriginal Business with the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. Makatew Workshops provides a hands-on workshop to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. Founded in June 2019, he decided it was time to honour his Ancestors and share his teachings with everyone in a safe space. Marc is Algonquin and French and a member of the Apatipi Anicinapek Nation (formerly Wahgoshig First Nation Band) located near Matheson, Ontario. He is an active member of Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, Ottawa Tourism, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, and Canadian Society of Association Executives. He currently serves on the Board of Ottawa Tourism. Marc successfully completed the inaugural Indigenous Tourism Entrepreneurship Training through Algonquin College in partnership with Ottawa Tourism in the fall of 2020 and now sits on the Advisory Committee and is a mentor in the legacy Indigenous Tourism Entrepreneurship Training program launching in January 2022.



Hon. Doug Ford

Doug Ford is the Premier of Ontario. He was 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 Etobicoke. His commitment to public service includes over 20 years of dedicated work with the Toronto West Rotary Club and serving as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Hon. Sylvia Jones

Sylvia Jones is the Member of Provincial Parliament for Dufferin-Caledon. She is currently Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, where her focus is building a more connected and convenient health care system for all Ontarians. Over the last year, Minister Jones has worked with health care partners from across Ontario to: introduce and pass the Your Health Act to ensure Ontarians have faster access to publicly-funded surgeries and procedures, while growing the health care workforce, introduce and pass the Convenient Care at Home Act to modernize and better integrate home care services, and break down barriers to make it easier and faster for health care workers trained in Ontario, other provinces, and internationally to register and start working in Ontario. She has lived in Dufferin-Caledon for over 30 years with her husband, David.



Dr. Kieran Moore

Dr. Kieran Moore has been appointed as the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective June 26, 2021. Dr. Moore served as the Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington from 2011 to 2021. Dr. Moore is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Department of Emergency and Family Medicine of Queen's University and the Program Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University. Dr. Moore received his Medical degree from the University of Ottawa and subsequently received his specialty certification in Family Medicine and 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 Physician Leadership and Diplomas in Sports Medicine, Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, and Humanitarian Assistance. He has completed a Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Fellowship in Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University. Dr. Moore has extensive experience in surveillance systems for bioterrorism and outbreak detection, public health, pre-hospital care, and multidisciplinary research projects. His main area of interest is in the evaluation of various data streams for the early detection of outbreaks as well as assessment of deprivation distribution in populations.



Dr. Robert Kyle

Dr. Robert Kyle has been the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Regional Municipality of Durham since 1991. Prior to this appointment, he served as MOH for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit since 1987. Dr. Kyle obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Western University and medical degree and Master of Health Science degree from the University of Toronto. He is a certificant in the Specialty of Community Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and holds a certificate in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Dr. Kyle is a Fellow of the RCPSC and the American College of Preventive Medicine. He is an Adjunct Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and Department of Family Medicine, Queen's University. He is also a member of the medical staffs of Lakeridge Health and Oak Valley Health. Dr. Kyle is an active member of many provincial and regional health groups and organizations. For example, he is a Past-Chair of Public Health Ontario's Board of Directors, Past-President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) and Past-Chair and current member of the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Exam Board and Examination Committee of the RCPSC. Dr. Kyle was awarded an alPHA Distinguished Service Award in 2019.



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 and the Institute's Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities initiative. Prior to working there, Loretta was with the Toronto Board of Trade and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Loretta is a Certified Association Executive (CAE).



Dr. Lianne Catton

Dr. Lianne Catton is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for the Porcupine Health Unit (PHU), the largest geographic health unit in the Province at over 274,000 square kilometers. Completing family medicine residency with additional training in emergency medicine she travelled across Northeastern Ontario gaining an appreciation for the unique challenges faced by communities and patients in achieving health. Dr. Catton settled in Timmins as a full-time emergency physician in 2008 and shortly after, also provided clinical care at Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre, and the PHU Sexual Health Clinic. Years of treating individuals with poor health outcomes and seeing tragedies in the emergency department reignited a passion to focus upstream to prevent illness and injury. These clinical experiences led to a deep understanding of the inequities impacting health and well-being, especially in the North, and continue to inform and inspire her work since April 2016.



Wess Garrod

Wess Garrod is a community representative on the KFL&A Board of Health, appointed by Order-in-Council. Wess completed his Bachelor of Science (Hon) at the University of Guelph and his Bachelor of Education at Queen's University, where he also completed his principal's designation. Wess retired from the Limestone District School Board in 2006. He is a former secondary school principal, supervising principal and member of LDSB's senior staff. He was recognized for his contributions to the field of education and physical activity with an Outstanding Service Award, and the establishment of the "Wess Garrod Healthy Active Living Award", which is presented annually to a LDSB staff member who has worked to improve student and staff health and well-being in their school. Wess has been a great supporter of KFL&A Public Health and has worked in the past with this agency on a variety of projects to promote physical activity in schools. He coached basketball, football and soccer. Wess currently lives on a hobby farm near Yarker and enjoys horseback riding, downhill skiing, water skiing, golf and general fitness activities.



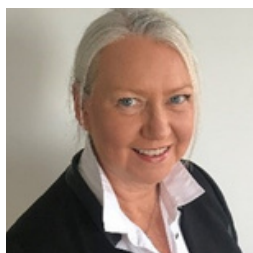
Bonnie Clark

Warden Bonnie Clark took office for Peterborough County in December 2022. Her career in public service began over twenty years ago as a Township Councillor for Otonabee Township. She has served as Deputy Mayor of the amalgamated Otonabee-South Monaghan Township and as a member of Peterborough County Council since 2018. She is the third woman to lead Peterborough County as Warden. In 2023, she was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. In the same year, she was appointed as the EOWC representative to the Eastern Ontario Leadership Council. She continues to serve in both of these roles in 2024. Warden Clark made her career in the healthcare industry as a registered nurse for 28 years. She has sat on the board of Peterborough Public Health for the past six years. In the past, she has served as Chair of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority and the Peterborough Housing Corporation. Warden Clark is part of a proud farming family where presently the sixth generation lives and works on the family poultry farm. Warden Clark seeks to encourage collaboration with public, private, and community organizations for the benefit of all people who call Peterborough County home.



Dr. Eileen de Villa

Dr. Eileen de Villa serves as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, where she leads Toronto Public Health, the largest local public health agency in Canada, offering programs and services to address the population health of the city's more than 3 million residents. Dr. de Villa earned her Doctor of Medicine and Master of Health Science (MHSc) degrees from the University of Toronto. She also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Schulich School of Business at York University and is an Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. In her capacity as the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. de Villa has been at the forefront of public health efforts and evidence-based interventions in Toronto, including guiding the largest vaccination campaign in Toronto's history during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the response to the ongoing drug toxicity crisis. 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 contributions to health equity, health communication and community engagement, receiving accolades from IABC/Toronto as Communicator of the Year in 2021, "Most Influential Filipina Woman in the World" Award in 2022, 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.



Liz Walker

Since December 2022, Elizabeth Walker has been the Executive Lead for the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Division. Reporting to Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Liz provides leadership to branch directors in the Division in the development of public health policies and programs, health system emergency management and preparedness, along with the management of the public health system in Ontario. Liz has been with public health for 20 years in a variety of policy, financial and program leadership roles.



Colleen Kiel

Colleen Kiel is Director of the Strategic Policy, Planning and Communications Branch, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health. She has been with the Ontario Public Service for 17 years working in various areas of public health including health promotion, performance and accountability, the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy and dental programming and now leading strategic public health policy work. Prior to joining the OPS, Colleen led a provincial public health resource centre and also worked in two local public health agencies.



Brent Feeney

Brent Feeney is the Director of the Accountability and Liaison Branch in the Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health in the Ministry of Health. Brent has worked in the Ontario Public Service for over 20 years, including over 18 years in public health. He has invaluable experience in leading and developing successful funding and accountability teams and leading and coordinating financial processes for the division. Over the years, Brent has played an instrumental role in creating, implementing, and overseeing accountability frameworks for public health units and Public Health Ontario and has developed successful relationships with internal and external stakeholders.



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.



Sabine Matheson

Since 1998, Sabine has been a Principal at StrategyCorp, which serves clients across Canada and internationally. She is the founder of StrategyCorp's Municipal Affairs Practice Group, which has served well over a hundred municipalities across Canada on a variety of strategic projects. Sabine is currently strategic advisor to Ontario's Large Urban Mayors Caucus on provincial relations. A well-known commentator on the municipal world, she has also been an advisor to AMO, AMCTO, and OMAA. Since 2016, Sabine has been the lead author of StrategyCorp's influential Annual CAO Survey, which gives voice to Ontario and Canadian Chief Administrators. Sabine served as Chief of Staff to Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Since 2007, she has been an instructor in UOIT's Municipal Management Program. Sabine also teaches provincial-municipal relations through AMCTO.



John Perenack

John is a Principal at StrategyCorp. He is a public affairs and communications expert who has been providing guidance and counsel on reputation and how to communicate with government, media, communities, and other stakeholders for 25 years. He is a specialist in crisis communications and reputation management, helping organizations educate, inform and persuade stakeholders in order to shape opinion and position clients for success. His work in high-stakes communications has included kidnapping, financial crime, allegations involving criminal staff misconduct in the education and health care sectors, and controversial mergers & acquisitions within Canada, and internationally including the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. John is also a skilled media trainer and coach who has helped hundreds of executive spokespeople learn how to interact with media, and get their messages across clearly and concisely. He is a specialist in helping organizations use digital and traditional media to influence opinion and help clients tackle the toughest of issues while protecting their reputations. During his career, John has worked with each level of government and organizations from many sectors of the economy, including health care, banking, transportation, insurance, education, retail, technology, and manufacturing.

FRIDAY, June 6



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 of 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.



Caitlyn Paget

Caitlyn Paget is the Manager of the Health Analytics and Research Team at the Durham Region Health Department. She has been a member of the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) for over 12 years and has chaired the Core Indicators project since 2016. Caitlyn is passionate about making epidemiologic and analytic evidence both beautiful and easy to understand, to support public health decisions and risk communication. With a background in both epidemiology and engineering, she brings a systems approach to population health assessment and surveillance. Her focus is to automate foundational analytics to create time for deeper epidemiologic contribution in local public health.



Steven Rebellato

Steven Rebellato is the Vice President for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. 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 a Fellow at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health in the AMS-Fitzgerald Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence and Human-Centered Leadership. He is the Vice-Chair for the York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families in the Region of York.



Susan Stewart

Susan Stewart is the Director of the Community Health and Well-Being Portfolio at Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health. Her portfolio includes health promotion in topics such as healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco, alcohol, opioids, as well as harm reduction for substances and clinical services in dental and oral health. Susan has over 25 years of experience in public health specializing in health promotion, research and evaluation. She is involved at the both the provincial and local level in health promotion. Provincially, Susan chairs both Health Promotion Ontario and the Ontario Chronic Diseases Prevention Managers in Public Health network. She also sits on the Board of Directors of the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association and sits on various provincial advisory committees, such as the Prevention System Quality Index and the Ontario Health Prevention Advisory Committee. At the local level, Susan is involved with many partners and committees including the chairing the KFL&A Community Drug Strategy Advisory Committee, and co-sharing the Homelessness Collective Impact Committee in her community. Susan is passionate about health equity, health promotion and evidence-informed decision making.



Cynthia St. John

Cynthia St. John is the CEO of Southwestern Public Health, formed in 2018 by the merger of the former Oxford County Public Health and Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health. Prior to the merger, Cynthia presided as the Executive Director of Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health for 18 years. Cynthia now leads an organization of approximately 200 employees responsible for providing public health programming to a population of over 200,000 in southwestern Ontario. Cynthia began her career in the charitable sector having had the privilege of working with exceptional organizations such as the YWCA, the Anne Johnston Community Health Centre, and Dying with Dignity Canada. She holds a Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership. Cynthia has served on numerous Boards in the health and social services sector. She currently is the President of the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators, is a member of the alPHa Board of Directors and the alPHa Executive Committee. She is the recipient of alPHa's Distinguished Service Award in 2017.



Alicia Neufeld

Alicia Neufeld is a Senior Manager of Policy at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), where she is responsible for health and human services in addition to a range of other municipal priorities. Before joining AMO in January 2024, Alicia was the Associate Director of the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat at Toronto Public Health. Prior to that, she spent more than a decade with the provincial government, including many years in strategic policy at the Ministry of Health where she led complex policy files, including the implementation of Medical Assistance in Dying, the development of Ontario's first Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose, and approvals for two rounds of health system transformation.



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.



Trudy Sachowski

Trudy Sachowski, appointed to the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) Board of Health by the Municipality of Machin and the City of Dryden, 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 appointment to the NWHU Board of Health, Trudy has remained steadfast in her commitment to her role in improving the health outcomes of the people of Northwestern Ontario and across the province. As the alPHA's North West Region BOH representative, Trudy enthusiastically provides leadership and advocacy for local public health and brings her northern Métis citizen perspective. Prior to her current position as Past President of the alPHA Board of Directors, Trudy has held alPHA Board of Directors Executive Committee positions as President, Vice President, BOH Section Chair, and BOH Section Vice-Chair. Trudy is an Ontario Volunteer Service Award recipient. Her volunteerism includes having served as the Ontario Parent Council Chair, Northwestern Healthy Living Partnership Chair, Dryden Public Library Board Chair, and Northwestern Early Years Steering Committee Chair. Trudy is the Vice-Chair of Points North Family Health Team Board of Directors and serves on the NWHU Board of Health Executive Committee. Trudy received alPHA's 2022 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions made to public health in Ontario.



Maureen Wilson

Maureen Wilson is the Councillor for Ward 1 in the City of Hamilton. Maureen also serves as the Vice Chair of Hamilton's Board of Health for the 2022-2026 term. A strong advocate for maternal health and women's reproductive rights, Maureen also seeks to advance the goals of public health into all city building practices and outcomes. Maureen is a board member of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Halton Conservation Authority. She holds a Master's degree in both urban planning and political studies.



Jennifer Vickers-Manzin

Jen Vickers Manzin is the President of the Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL). She supports the achievement OPHNL's mission to promote and protect the health of Ontarians through excellence in public health nursing leadership. As we transition from the crisis phase of COVID response, Jen's voice will represent Public Health nursing leaders in highlighting the significant return on investment of returning to routine public health programming while maintaining the COVID-19 response. Jen brings over 20 years of experience in Public Health in Ontario. She currently holds the position of Director of Healthy Families Division and Chief Nursing Officer for The City of Hamilton Public Health Services.



Abi Chandrabalan

Abi is a multifaceted registered nurse passionate about Public Health and its role in building strong, healthy communities. Currently, Abi is pursuing a Master's of Business Administration at Wilfrid Laurier University to further her leadership capabilities in the healthcare space. Abi brings a unique perspective to the Board of Health through her years of experience as a bedside nurse and working at a political level for the municipal government.



Monika Turner

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, 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 Health as the Director of Public Health Standards and oversaw 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 expertise include: public health, health, housing, municipal issues and food security. 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.



Association of Local Public Health Agencies
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood Toronto, ON M6C 4A7
(416) 595-0006 | info@alphaweb.org | www.alphaweb.org
Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) [@PHAgencies](https://twitter.com/PHAgencies)