

2025 alPHA Winter Symposium

Speakers' Biographies

(IN ORDER OF FIRST APPEARANCE)

FRIDAY, February 14



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 Northwestern 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 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (Ontario) North West Region Board of Health Section representative, Trudy enthusiastically provides leadership and advocacy for local public health. Trudy Sachowski believes in the work of public health, and she is driven to contribute her time, knowledge, influence, and passion to move this work forward for the betterment of the people of Ontario.



Robin Jones

Robin Jones has been the Mayor of the Municipality of the Village of Westport since 2014 and serves on the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Council. Mayor Jones has been elected to the Board of Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) since 2018 and was elected as Chair of Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) in 2021. She was elected Warden of the Counties for 2017 & 18 and also elected as Chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus in 2018. She is a member of the Board of Management for both Maple View Lodge and St. Lawrence Lodge. Prior to entering political life, Mayor Jones had a 33 year career in policing, holding senior positions with the Waterloo Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and finished her policing career as Chief of Nishnawbe-Aski Police. In 2007, she was seconded to the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and was the Provincial Negotiator for First Nations Police Services throughout Ontario. In 2021, Robin was appointed by the Government of Ontario to the Ontario Arts Council.



Pete Bombaci

Pete is the founder of GenWell and is proud to be leading a movement that he truly believes can make the world a happier and healthier place. Formerly the Canadian Country Director for Movember Canada, Pete led an amazing team of people responsible for raising \$142 million dollars over five years, and putting a much needed lens on men's health. Having spent time in the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds, Pete believes that there is a great opportunity to combine the interests of business, schools, government, foundations and individuals in the solution to the disconnected world that we find ourselves in today.



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 the current President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) Board, and an Ex Officio Member of the Executive of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH). In June 2023 he received alPHA'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.



Dr. Ethan Tournishey

Dr. Ethan Tournishey is the Deputy Medical Officer of Health West of the South East Health Unit. Prior to the formation of SEHU, he was the Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Hastings Prince Edward Public Health from 2021 to 2024. He completed his residency training in Public Health and Preventive Medicine with Family Medicine from Queen's University in 2021.



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 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 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& 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.



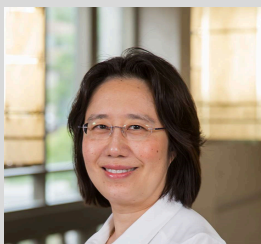
Paul Sharma

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.



Maria Sánchez-Keane

Maria Sánchez-Keane, M.Div., MBA is the Principal Consultant for the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness, an organization she founded in 2000. The Centre focuses its work on the public, non-profit, and charitable sectors. She has extensive experience in strategic planning, leading complex change initiatives, and facilitating voluntary merger/unification processes. She has worked within the public health sector for the past 15 years. By her work she aims to improve the health and well-being of people, particularly those most vulnerable and marginalized in society, through organizational, community and systems improvements and change. Maria's systems, community and organizational background has given her clients the ability to develop strong implementation plans with clear performance measures, which effectively evaluate the success of initiatives undertaken. She has worked with various sized groups, from teams of three to organizations with thousands of employees across many communities. She has worked with community, organizational, municipal, provincial and national leaders. Maria holds a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Divinity, which grounds her work. Her MBA research focus was on strategy, evaluation and scorecards. Maria's business approach is marked by the philosophy of creating working communities that are empowered to generate and implement strong strategic solutions.



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 600 staff and a \$70 million budget. Dr. Wang has also been an assistant professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, since 2008.



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. 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.



Loretta Ryan

Loretta Ryan is the Chief Executive Officer 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, government relations, and communications. Notably, she headed up the Institute's Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities initiative, an area where planning and public health intersect on the built environment. 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) and a Registered Professional Planner (RPP).

BOH Section Meeting



Tammy DeGiovanni

Tammy DeGiovanni is a dynamic health leader with over 25 years of experience. Tammy's career began as a Registered Nurse across diverse settings. She then moved into leadership roles in pediatric acute care, including the organization-wide implementation of an electronic health record. She is now the Senior Vice-President of Clinical Services and Chief Nurse Executive at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, overseeing all clinical programs, nursing and health professional practices. Tammy serves on the CHEO Board and various regional and provincial committees to advance healthcare system changes. She collaborates with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Health Sciences as a guest lecturer and works with the CHEO Research Institute to integrate evidence-based care. Additionally, Tammy has been Vice-Chair of the Ottawa Board of Health for six years and is active in community organizations related to the arts, schools, sports, and her neighborhood. Tammy has a strong focus on governance structures that help teams achieve their mandates, aligning with the goals of Public Health Boards across the Province.



Adam Malek

Adam Malek has a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Bishop's University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Manitoba. As an partner at Allen & Malek LLP, Adam practices in the areas of estate, corporate-commercial, and employment law. He has published articles on the new reporting obligations in estate law and crowd funding prospectus exemptions, and has contributed to the edition of the Estate Planning Handbook and How to Administer an Estate in Ontario. Adam has experience with litigation, including conducting mediations, motions, and trials across the Greater Toronto Area.



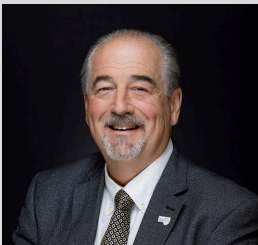
Jan O'Neill

Jan O'Neill is currently Mayor for the Municipality of Marmora and Lake (2018 to present) and was recently elected as Chair of the newly created South East Health Unit. Born and raised in Marmora, she has been married for 43 years and they have one son. Jan retired with 25 years of public service in the Municipality of Clarington. Her qualifications include professional accreditation with the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCT). She was also a part time instructor of the AMCT MAP courses at Durham College. During her career Jan served on numerous committees including, among others, Emergency Planning Committee (Region of Durham); Health & Safety Committee Chair, Office & Administration Development Committee (Durham College); Board of Directors – AMCT; and she currently serves on the Board of Directors for the General Motors Salaried Pension Organization. As mayor, her duties include sitting as a Councillor on Hastings County Council. She was appointed to the Hastings Prince Edward Board of Health in 2018, and was elected as chair of that Board from 2022 to December 2024.



Michelle Boileau

Born and raised in Timmins, Michelle has over a decade of experience working as director, manager, support staff and part-time professor in the postsecondary education sector. Previously, she worked as the Employment & Immigration Services Manager for a community college. She also has a Master of Research (M. Res.) degree in Educational and Social Research from the University of London (UK), as well as an Honours Bachelor's (Hon. B.A.) degree from the University of Ottawa. Michelle was elected to the municipal council in the City of Timmins in 2018, and has served on several community boards and committees including the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) and the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO).



Ron Black

Ron Black's political career started in 1993 as Councillor at Large/Smith Township after Chairing Smith Community Rallies Against Polluting Sites (SCRAPS). He was acclaimed a second term on Council during the municipal amalgamation process where Ennismore, Smith and Lakefield merged into Selwyn Township. Ron served as Chair of the Smith Ennismore Police Services Board (SEPSB) and the Fire Department. Upon leaving Council in 2000, Ron became the provincial appointee to the SEPSB for three terms. Ron is currently President/Abbeyfield House Society of Lakefield, Vice Chair/Four Counties Addiction Services & Treatment and Loans Committee Chair/Community Futures. Ron has Chaired the Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation, and been involved in numerous health related provincial and national organizations.



John Bell

John Bell is an Engineer by training and career. He worked for 32 years in the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of companies, with his career evenly split between major capital project management and corporate business planning. His last role was as a VP Shell Canada and he retired from Shell in 2009. On retiring John consulted for a number of years with McKinsey and Co. and later became involved in municipal government. He is now mid way through his second term as a Councillor for the County of Brant. He was a member of the Board of Health for Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) for 6 years, Vice Chair for one year and Chair for 2 years during the Covid years. In January, he joined the Board of Health for the newly formed Grand Erie Public Health unit, a merger of Brant County and Haldimand Norfolk Health Units. John was a member of the BCHU merger sub committee and latterly a member of the Governance Transition Committee. He was elected Vice Chair and is currently Acting Chair.



Carolyn Doris

Carolyn Doris is a Registered Dietitian and Manager of Family and Community Health at Peterborough Public Health. Her current portfolio includes Nutrition and Food Literacy programs along with Substance Use and Harm Reduction with a focus on the local drug poisoning crisis. Public Health has been Carolyn's specialization since completing a dietetic internship in Community Nutrition. She has been a long-time member and Chair of Ontario Dietitians in Public Health as well as leading provincial workgroups including School Nutrition and Food Insecurity. A life long learner, Carolyn recently completed a Masters of Public Administration from Queen's 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.



Doug Lawrance

Doug Lawrance worked on water supply and road construction projects while he and his wife, Cherry, lived in St. Lucia and then Mozambique. He and his family returned to Canada, specifically Smithers, British Columbia, where Doug was employed with the Municipal Engineering Department for one year. He then went on to be employed by the Province of British Columbia working on forestry road projects. For the next 25 years Doug managed a successful small engineering and architectural business whose client base included regional Municipalities, First Nations communities, provincial and federal agencies, as well as private clients. After his retirement, he worked as an independent Project Manager for Meno Ya Win Health Centre. Doug is currently a Director of the Meno Ya Win Health Centre Foundation and sits on a number of boards and committees including the Sioux Lookout Police Services Board, the Kenora District Municipal Association, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Ontario Municipal Water Association.



Ann-Marie Kungl

Ann-Marie Kungl is the Chief Executive Officer of the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County and Certified Health Executive. She is immersed in community and public service as a City of Barrie Councillor and the Board Chair of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. With over 25 years in broad health system roles, her passion is supporting dementia friendly communities, public health promotion and connecting people to meaningful opportunities that build vibrant neighbourhoods.



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.



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