

2025 aPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference

Speakers' Biographies

THURSDAY, JUNE 19



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.



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.



Marc Forgette

Marc Forgette is the founder of Makatew Inc., an Indigenous-owned business based in Ottawa, Ontario, that delivers impactful education and cultural programming through its three divisions: Makatew Workshops, Makatew Speaks, and Makatew Consulting. As a proud Anishinaabe from Apitipi Anicinapek Nation and a member of the bear clan, Marc is deeply committed to sharing Indigenous knowledge in meaningful and accessible ways. Makatew Workshops specializes in hands-on learning experiences such as smudging teachings, medicine bag workshops, and cultural awareness sessions tailored for corporate, educational, and government audiences. Through Makatew Speaks, Marc offers keynote presentations and moderating services that bring Indigenous perspectives to national conferences, leadership forums, and community events. With Makatew Consulting, he supports organizations in embedding reconciliation and Indigenous inclusion into policies, programming, and event planning. Marc is a recipient of multiple awards including the Think Ottawa 2024 Market Leadership Award, Supplier of the Year from MPI Ottawa, and the Influence Award for his contributions to Indigenous education and community impact. A passionate advocate for truth and reconciliation, Marc has organized public ceremonies, led walking tours that highlight Indigenous presence in Canada's capital, and partnered with institutions to promote respectful engagement with First Nations cultures. His work is rooted in authenticity, storytelling, and a commitment to creating safe learning spaces for all.



Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey

Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey is Toronto's Acting Medical Officer of Health and leads the largest local public health agency in Canada, serving Toronto's 3 million+ residents. Dr. Lamptey obtained her medical degree at the University of Toronto, as well as degrees in Epidemiology and Public Health Management from Yale and a Bachelor of liberal arts from Princeton University. Prior to her current Acting role in Toronto, she was the Deputy Medical Officer of Health. She has held positions as a Regional Medical Officer of Health in New Brunswick and Associate Medical Officer of Health at the Sudbury & District Health Unit. Dr. Lamptey is a public health and preventive medicine physician committed to improving population health through clinical care, policy development and system advocacy.



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).



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 and an OMA Life Membership in 2024.



Dr. Chris Simpson

A distinguished cardiologist, researcher and educator, Dr. Chris Simpson has been actively involved in health care policy throughout his career. He provides medical leadership and expertise to Ontario Health's Population Health and Clinical function and across the organization. Chris has held key leadership roles in many provincial and national academic and health organizations and has been instrumental in several high-impact initiatives. A former president of the Canadian Medical Association, he advocated for a National Seniors Strategy. As the former Chair of the Wait Time Alliance, a federation of 18 national medical specialty societies, the Canadian College of Family Physicians and the Canadian Medical Association, he supported the development of wait time benchmarks for over 1000 surgeries, procedures, tests and consultations. Chris is the author of more than 350 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts—and has won multiple teaching and health system awards. Prior to joining Ontario Health, Chris was Vice-Dean (Clinical) at the Queen's School of Medicine, while serving as an Affiliate Scientist with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES-Queen's) and as a member of the Queen's School of Policy Studies Health Policy Council. He maintains a clinical practice at Kingston Health Sciences Centre and remains on the faculty at Queen's.



Michael Sherar

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



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 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.



Leonor Tavares

Leonor Tavares, MSc., is currently a Manager with the Indigenous and Intergovernmental Unit with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Ministry of Health. She holds a Master's degree from the School of Public Health in Alberta (formally known as the Centre for Health Promotion Studies). Leonor has worked to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous and intergovernmental partners to collaborate in the areas of policy and program development/implementation, research and evaluation to support the delivery of public health services with/by Indigenous communities and organizations in Ontario.



Dr. Nicole Blackman

Nicole Blackman is of mixed Indigenous heritage (Anishinaabe/German) and a proud member of Algonquins of Pikwakangan First Nation. She is a Registered Nurse holding a Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis on Indigenous health from a public health lens. Nicole has over 15 years experience working in Indigenous health and is currently the Chief Operating Officer for the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council. She has dedicated her advanced practice nursing career towards working collaboratively with the Indigenous population to strengthen health and social outcomes, recognizing the importance of culture as healing in all forms of Indigenous health care.



Dr. Lianne Catton

Dr. Lianne Catton is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for the Northeastern Public Health (NEPH), the largest geographic health unit in the Province at over 288,000 square kilometers. Prior to medicine Lianne worked as a health promoter at the Hamilton-Wentworth Health Unit. 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.



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.



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.



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.

BOH Section Meeting **(Friday, June 20)**



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.



Loretta Ryan

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Carolyn Doris

Carolyn Doris is a Registered Dietitian and Manager of Family and Community Health in the Peterborough office of the newly merged Haliburton, Kawartha, Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit Peterborough. Carolyn has been seconded to support merger activities and project management as part of the Transformation Office of HKNPHU. 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 and led provincial workgroups including School Nutrition and Food Insecurity. A life long learner, Carolyn recently completed a Masters of Public Administration from Queen's University.



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.



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.



Joanne Figliano-Scott

Joanne Figliano-Scott is a nurse with more than 20 years of working experience at Toronto Public Health. Joanne is currently the Director of Community Health and Wellbeing and Chief Nursing Officer at Toronto Public Health (TPH). After graduating from nursing, Joanne worked as a Public Health Nurse at Durham Public Health and taught Community Health Nursing at York University before joining Toronto Public Health. For more than twenty years, Joanne has worked as a Public Health Nurse, a Health Promotion Specialist, a Public Health Manager, a Senior Policy and Strategic Issues Advisor, and most recently as an Associate Director in the Office of the Medical Officer of Health at Toronto Public Health. In these roles she has supported the organization to develop and deliver quality, client-centered services; contributed to knowledge transfer; and reinforced population health assessment and program evaluation. Joanne has led public health teams in managing strategic issues, advancing policies and engaging internal and external stakeholders on complex public health issues. Joanne has a strong interest in health promotion and advancing effective local public health efforts to reduce inequities in health. As a nursing professional, Joanne has helped advance nursing practice as a member of TPH's Nursing Practice Council, contributing to Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) initiatives, including Best Practice Spotlight Organization. Joanne is currently the Chief Nursing Officer at Toronto Public Health and the President-elect of the Ontario Public Health Nursing Leadership Association.



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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.

Mobile Workshop (Wednesday, June 18)



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 University of Toronto, and has a longstanding passion for using documents, photos and stories to connect people with the past.



Jessica Algie

Jessica is an Educator at the City of Toronto Archives who has worked in the history field for 18 years. In her work, she helps to connect people to Toronto's histories through exhibitions, education programs and outreach initiatives. Jessica studied art history and classics at the University of Toronto and began working for City of Toronto Museums in 2006. She joined the City of Toronto Archives in 2013.



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