

# 2026 aPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference

## Speakers' Biographies

(In order of first appearance)

MONDAY, JUNE 8

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### Hon Lu

Hon is a Senior Project Manager with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). He is an environmental engineer and city planner by training, and has project managed some of Canada's most environmentally complex urban restorations projects. He has worked extensively with municipal and local governments, advising on urban brownfields revitalization, land use development, healthy cities, and sustainable development. He has project managed the development of several large-scale master plans and coordinated environmental and planning approvals on former landfill sites, brownfields, urban watersheds, and waterfronts.



### Dan Nicholson

Dan Nicholson is a Manager in the Community Planning Section of the City of Toronto Development Review Division and manages a team of planners working on a wide range of development applications in the west end of Downtown Toronto. Dan is also the Community Planning lead for Exhibition Place, a 192 acre site which serves as Toronto's downtown fairgrounds, as well as a centre for conventions and entertainment and sporting events. Prior to 2019, he oversaw much of the redevelopment in the King-Spadina Secondary Plan area in the downtown, including the redevelopment of the former Globe and Mail site (The Well), and was the planning lead on the Phase 1 report on the Exhibition Place Master Plan. Dan often represented the city at the then Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) now known as the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). Prior to joining the City of Toronto Planning Division in 2003, Dan worked for the City of Brampton, Ministry of Housing (Ontario), as a private consultant in Kitchener-Waterloo, and as a municipal planner in rural Nova Scotia. Dan is a Registered Professional Planner and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.



### Dr. Charles Gardner

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Gardner was Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit from 2005 to 2025, and for the Leeds, Greenville and Lanark District Health Unit from 1998 to 2005. He also worked in primary care from 1990 to 1995. Dr. Gardner served as aPHa President in 2008 to 2009, and 2023 to 2024. Chuck has been retired since October 2025, and remains committed to healthy built and natural environments. He embraces a life of outdoor activity, time with family, cross cultural and linguistic experiences, and time in nature, while also maintaining contact and involvement with his wonderful colleagues in the public health community.



### **Pete Bombaci**

Pete Bombaci is a pioneering social change leader and the Founder and CEO of GenWell, Canada’s Human Connection Movement. Since launching the organization in 2016, Pete has led a national effort to educate, empower, and catalyze Canadians around the critical role social connection and social health play in our mental, physical, and societal well-being. GenWell’s work is grounded in growing global and public health evidence and has been recognized by the World Health Organization, which has identified social connection as a foundational pillar of health. Under Pete’s leadership, GenWell has become a nationally recognized catalyst for change, delivering social health education and programming across Canada in workplaces, schools, municipalities, community organizations, and seniors-focused organizations. In 2025 alone, GenWell directly engaged more than 10,000 Canadians through workshops and engaged millions more through six national campaigns, helping normalize conversations around social isolation, disconnection, and loneliness while empowering people with practical ways to build healthier connection habits in everyday life. Prior to GenWell, Pete served as Country Director of Movember Canada, helping raise \$142 million for men’s health. Today, Pete is a sought after speaker and thought leader inspiring a more connected Canada, and world, where everyone thrives.

## **TUESDAY, JUNE 9**

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### **Claudia Valle**

Claudia leverages her background in experiential education to help leaders and teams achieve meaningful results and reach their full potential. Her work has led to the design and delivery of cutting-edge leadership programs for Fortune 500 organizations, including Cardinal Health, Procter & Gamble, and Sysco, across North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. To ensure her clients benefit from the most current and relevant leadership thinking, Claudia holds certifications in Polarity Management®, Core Strengths Relationship Intelligence®, Skilled Facilitation®, EQ-i Emotional Intelligence®, and Working Genius®. Outside of her work with leaders and teams, Claudia fuels her passion for traveling the world, exploring new cultures, and seeing as much live music as possible.



### **Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang**

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang is the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Public Health and Paramedic Services in the Region of Waterloo, one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario with a population of 700,000. From 2004 to 2017, Dr. Wang served as the Region’s Associate Medical Officer of Health, focusing on infectious diseases, environmental health, emergency preparedness and population health assessment. In her current role, Dr. Wang is responsible for all Public Health and Paramedic Services programs in the region, overseeing over 600 staff and a budget of over \$110 million.



### **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.



### **Dr. Rebecca Hicks**

Dr. Rebecca Hicks is the president of the Ontario Medical Association and a community-based, comprehensive care family physician working in Toronto. On a systems-level, Dr. Hicks’ involvement with the SGFP executive and OMA Health Policy Committee has enabled her to spearhead initiatives aimed at reducing administrative burden, addressing gender equity, and empowering the physician voice. She has served as a member-at-large of the OMA’s SGFP Executive and Health Policy Committee. She has also held local, regional and provincial leadership positions with her involvement as her family health team’s lead physician, and as a member of West Toronto OHT’s Primary Care Council. Dr. Hicks’ leadership is driven by a passion for transformative change, and she recently completed the OCFP Leadership Academy through the Rotman School of Management.



### **Doug Lawrance**

Doug Lawrance has been the Mayor of Sioux Lookout since the 2014 election. He has been Chair of the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health unit since 2020. During his time as Mayor, Doug has served on various provincial and regional boards, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Northwestern Municipal Association, and the Kenora District Services Board. Doug is currently a member of the AMO Health Transformation Task Force. Prior to engagement in municipal leadership, Doug had a forty-year career in engineering and project management, including time working in St. Lucia, Mozambique, British Columbia, and Northern Ontario. In the past, Doug has been involved with coaching hockey and volunteering in various sports and recreational activities. He enjoys living in Sioux Lookout, spending time with his family, and being active outdoors.



### **Margaret Froh**

President Margaret Froh is serving her third term as President of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). President Froh joined the staff of the MNO in 2013 as in-house legal counsel and Director of Strategic Policy, Law and Compliance. Prior to her election as President, Froh served as the MNO's Associate Chief Operating Officer. During her time as President, Froh has helped lead the MNO through a period of significant advancement in Métis rights and self-government including the signing of both the Canada-Métis Nation Accord and the Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement, establishing a new government-to-government relationship between Canada and the MNO. The MNO and Canada later signed the 2023 Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement, committing Canada to negotiating a self-government treaty with the MNO. President Froh also led the MNO through an independent review of its Citizenship Registry, culminating in a 2023 Special General Assembly where MNO Citizens voted overwhelmingly in favour of ensuring the MNO exclusively represents verifiable, rights-bearing Métis citizens. President Froh is focused on continuing to advance Métis self-government, strengthening programs and services for Métis families across Ontario, and ensuring the MNO remains accountable, transparent, and community-driven.



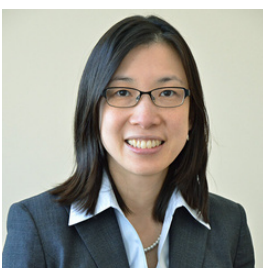
### **Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown**

Professor Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown has served as the Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) since 2017. His research largely now focuses on the use of evidence and data in public policy. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, a dozen book chapters and over 100 reports, editorials and commentaries. Prior to serving as Dean, Steini was the Director of the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in the DLSPH, an Assistant Deputy Minister in two different Ontario government ministries, and worked in start-up and Fortune 500 companies in the US. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



### **Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey**

Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey provides strategic leadership for the scientific and medical support functions within the Population Health, Medical and Scientific Support Department. In this role, she assures the delivery of evidence-informed guidance, technical expertise, and scientific oversight to strengthen population health initiatives and inform public health decision-making across Ontario. A dedicated public health and preventive medicine physician, Dr. Lamptey brings more than 15 years of experience in clinical care, policy development, and system advocacy. Before joining PHO, Dr. Lamptey served as Acting Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto and Deputy Medical Officer of Health, guiding initiatives to address community health priorities, tackle health inequities, and enhance outcomes for residents across the city. She has held leadership positions including Regional Medical Officer of Health in New Brunswick and Associate Medical Officer of Health at the Sudbury & District Health Unit. She has been recognized for her exemplary service with several awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (New Brunswick) in 2022.



### **Dr. Kit Young Hoon**

Dr. Kit Young Hoon is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU). Dr. Young Hoon is a Public Health and Preventative Medicine Specialist certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and was trained at McMaster University. Also from McMaster, Dr. Young Hoon holds a Master of Science in addition to her Master of Public Health from Lakehead University. She has worked for public health units in Hamilton, Toronto, Niagara Region, and Waterloo Region, and has also worked clinically in Ontario, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. Dr. Young Hoon is happy to call Kenora home and enjoys spending time with her family and participating in community events.



## 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). In 2025, Loretta was the recipient of an alPHa Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions made to public health in Ontario.



## 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.



## 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.



## Bernia Martin

Bernia Martin was elected Councillor for the City of Woodstock and County of Oxford in October 2022 and was subsequently appointed to the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health as Vice Chair for the 2023 year and elected as Chair of the Board in 2024. Raised in rural Southwestern Ontario, and a graduate of the University of Waterloo, she is no stranger to the unique opportunities and challenges that face the residents of the South West region. As a local business owner, elected official, advocate, and mother, Bernia is dedicated to advancing local public health work in our community and committed to creating healthier and more vibrant places to live and work.



### Cynthia St. John

Cynthia St. John is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Southwestern Public Health, a merged public health agency serving the Oxford, Elgin, and St. Thomas communities. Prior to its 2018 merger, Cynthia was 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 programs and services 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 at a local, national, and international level. Organizations include: the YWCA, a Toronto-based Community Health Centre, Dying with Dignity Canada, and Canadian Society of Association Executives. Cynthia is the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for volunteerism and the recipient of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies Distinguished Service Award for leadership work at the provincial level for affecting change. Cynthia holds a Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership.



### Marilyn Herbacz

Marilyn Herbacz is the Chief Executive Officer for the Northwestern Health Unit, and is driven by ambition, motivation and a forward-thinking attitude. Marilyn has a strong belief in the health and well-being of the people within communities and works hard to project that in her work, personal life and within her family. Marilyn comes with over 30 years financial and 20 plus years of human resources experience. Her educational background comes from various sources, and she holds a CEO designation from the University of New England. Marilyn was recognized for outstanding work through the University of Fredericton Disability Management field and is a member of the National Institute of Disability Management and Research. She holds a Certified Return to Work Coordinator designation and a Payroll Compliance Practitioner designation from the Canadian Payroll Association. Marilyn has been instrumental in ensuring internal controls are in place, the organization is compliant, accountable and transparent. Over the years she has implemented systems which focus on organizational efficiencies and operational accountability. Marilyn is dedicated to ensuring health unit employees have equal opportunities for growth and success in a safe and supportive environment. Born and raised in Kenora, Ontario, Marilyn appreciates all that the region has to offer. In her spare time, you will find her enjoying the outdoors, reading and enjoying family.



### Dr. Kieran Moore

Dr. Kieran Moore was appointed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister in June 2021. Prior to this, Dr. Moore served as the Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington from 2011 to 2021. He is also an adjunct Professor in the Departments of Emergency and Family Medicine of Queen's University and was the Program Director of 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. Pepi McTavish

Pepi McTavish is the Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Durham Region Health Department. She has been with the health department since 2019. Her focus at the health department includes infectious diseases prevention & control, immunization, and sexual health.

## BOH Section Meeting (Wednesday, June 10)

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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.



### **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.



### **Shannon Robinson**

Shannon Robinson is the Director of Health Promotion at Thunder Bay District Health Unit. She holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Western Ontario and Master of Science in Health Promotion from the University of Alberta. She is a Certified Evaluator with the Canadian Evaluation Society, a Certified Health Executive with the Canadian College of Health Leaders, and a Certified Human Resource Professional with the Human Resources Professionals Association. With interests spanning health promotion at the local and provincial levels, she has over 20 years of experience in local public health and currently chairs the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health network.



### **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.



### **Jim Pine**

Jim had a long and successful career in the municipal affairs business. He retired in June 2023 after 43 in the business at both the provincial and local government levels, 33 of which was as CAO. Since leaving full time paid work Jim has been engaged consulting work that includes executive search services, organizational review, strategic planning, project management and regional infrastructure projects related to broadband and cellular communications for eastern Ontario. He has been fortunate to have participated in a number of interesting projects throughout his career and in retirement. In September 2019, Jim was tasked to lead a province-wide consultation with stakeholders on modernizing Public Health and Emergency Health Services for the Ministry of Health and currently he is serving as a Special Advisor to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit. Over the course of Jim's career, he has taken an active role in municipal advocacy through his work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario where he served in several roles including as Secretary-Treasurer and as a member of the Board of Directors and through the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association where he served as its president.



### **Dr. Eileen de Villa**

Dr. Eileen de Villa, who is currently a Senior Fellow, Dalla Lana School of Public Health & Consultant in Public Health, served as Toronto's Medical Officer of Health from 2017-2024. In this role, she led Toronto Public Health, the largest local public health agency in Canada, serving the city's 3+ million residents. Prior to 2017, Dr. de Villa served as Associate Medical Officer of Health and then as Medical Officer of Health for the Region of Peel. Dr. de Villa earned a Bachelor's degree from Mc Gill University, her Doctor of Medicine and Master of Health Science (MHSc) degree in Health Promotion from the University of Toronto, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University. Public health physician, author, professor, and public figure, Dr. de Villa has been at the forefront of public health efforts and interventions in Toronto. This includes guiding the City's COVID-19 pandemic response (which included the largest vaccination campaign in Toronto's history); the response to the ongoing drug toxicity crisis; and public health policy considerations for city planning, emergency preparedness, and disease prevention and control.



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Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood Toronto, ON M6C 4A7  
(416) 595-0006 | [info@alphaweb.org](mailto:info@alphaweb.org) | [www.alphaweb.org](http://www.alphaweb.org)  
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