



# 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium

Feb. 11-13

Continuing the important conversation on Ontario's local public health system



Co-Hosted by Region of Waterloo Public Health

**Friday, February 13, 2026**

***Note: Meeting is hosted via Zoom Webinar***

**8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST)  
as of January 13<sup>th</sup>**

## Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Speaker: Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

## Welcoming Remarks

Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Kimberly Moran, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Medical Association

## Opening Keynote - Risk Communication Essentials - Top 10 Tips for Public Health Professionals

Speakers: Ron Brecher and Trevor Smith Diggins from [riskpartners.ca](http://riskpartners.ca)

Moderator: Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA

8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

When responding to complex public health issues in your communities, public health professionals must communicate effectively with non-technical stakeholders about concerns that can range from health and economics to accountability, process and fairness. Left unanswered, these concerns can lead to stakeholder outrage, causing disruptions in your public health campaign. Join one of Canada's leading risk communication teams in an exploration of key determinants of communication success. Ron and Trevor will provide practical advice for maintaining and leveraging your credibility using 'Top 10 Tips'.

## Update from Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Speakers:

Dr. Samir Patel, Vice President and Chief, Microbiology and Laboratory Services, PHO

JinHee Kim, Physician Lead, Environmental and Occupational Health, PHO

Catharine Chambers, Applied Public Health Science Specialist, Communicable Disease Control, PHO

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

PHO staff will share recent work by the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee (OIAC) and discuss some timely public health topics.

<b>Session on the Health Map Project – Further Details to Follow!</b>	10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
<b>Morning Break</b>	10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
<b>Session – Further Details to Follow!</b>	11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
<b>alPHA Update</b> Speaker: Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA Moderator: Loretta Ryan, CEO, alPHA  alPHA provides leadership to all of Ontario's boards of health, medical officers and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers. As local public health leaders, alPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHA's Members and staff act to promote and support local public health. Come and hear about what your Association is doing including the recent Pre-Budget Submission, Deputation, and the associated newly released infographic: <i>Public Health Matters - A Strong Economy Supported By Healthy Communities</i> .	11:45 a.m. - noon
<b>Update from the Chief Medical Officer of Health</b> Speaker: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Moderator: Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA  Come and hear the latest from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.	noon – 12:30 p.m.
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
<b>On the Front Lines with the Affiliates</b> Speakers: Carolyn Doris, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Paul Sharma, Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry Caitlyn Paget, Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario Shannon Robinson, Health Promotion Ontario Moderator: Bernia Martin, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA  This session features senior public health managers in key public health disciplines. Speakers will discuss issues from their unique perspectives as Affiliate members. Don't miss these important updates!	1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

<b>Legally Speaking – alPHa's Legal Counsel in Conversation with alPHa Members</b> Speakers: James LeNoury, Principal, LeNoury Law and Legal Counsel, alPHa Moderator: Dr. Robert Kyle, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health, Regional Municipality of Durham  Back by popular demand! Join in on a discussion of key legal issues related to local public health agencies.	1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
<b>Afternoon Break</b>	2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
<b>Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Update</b> Speakers: Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AMO Alicia Neufeld, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO Moderator: Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa  AMO works with Ontario's 444 municipalities to make municipal governments stronger and more effective. Come and hear the latest from AMO with a focus on their recent work.	3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
<b>Closing Remarks</b> Dr. Hsiao-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHa Participants' Draw – Winner must be present to accept the prize!	3:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This event is co-hosted by alPHa and Region of Waterloo Public Health



Region of Waterloo

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*Program is subject to change.*