

Speakers' Biographies (in order of first appearance)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3



OPENING REMARKS

Carmen McGregor

Chair, alPHA

Carmen McGregor is the Chair of alPHA and has served her community as an elected official for 23 years, including 11 years as a Trustee with the Lambton Kent District School Board and 13 years as a Municipal Councillor with the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. A long-standing member of the Chatham-Kent Board of Health, she served on the alPHA Board of Directors from 2015 to 2024, including the Executive Committee from 2016 to 2024, and two terms as President (2017–2018 and 2019–2020). During that time, she helped lead responses to the Expert Panel on Public Health, coordinated pre-budget submissions, and represented Boards of Health in meetings with the Minister of Health and MPPs on public health modernization. She also practises and teaches mixed media arts in her community.



OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Alexa Caturay

Medical Officer of Health, Peel Region

Dr. Alexa Caturay is Peel's Medical Officer of Health and a specialist in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. She is recognized for her leadership in public health, health system collaboration, emergency preparedness and response, and advancing equity for vulnerable populations. Passionate about epidemiology, education, and health equity in equal measure, she is committed to strengthening community health through evidence-informed practice. Outside of work, Alexa mentors high school students through the GEM program and is a devotee of puzzle books and print magazines.



OPENING REMARKS

Loretta Ryan, CAE, RPP

Chief Executive Officer, alPHA

Loretta Ryan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), which provides leadership to Ontario's boards of health and public health units. 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 advocate for healthy public policy and a strong, effective public health system. Previously, Loretta was Director of Public Affairs for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, where she led its Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities initiative. She is a Certified Association Executive and Registered Professional Planner, and received an alPHA Distinguished Service Award in 2025.



FACILITATOR

Meredith Low, CAE, C. Dir.

Founder and Principal, Meredith Low Consulting

Meredith Low is the founder and Principal of Meredith Low Consulting, where she focuses on not-for-profit organizations and the uniquely complex role they play in society. Her career spans professional associations, companies from small firms to the Fortune 500, and government. She has been a consultant with a global strategic consulting firm and led internal consulting and strategic planning at one of Canada's major banks. An expert facilitator, Meredith holds the CAE and Chartered Director designations. In 2019, the Directors College awarded her the Gil Bennett Award as its top Chartered Director graduate.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

The Power of Healthy Tension



FACILITATOR

Claudia Valle

Associate, Leaders for Leaders

Claudia Valle, an Associate with Leaders for Leaders, draws on her background in experiential education to help leaders and teams achieve meaningful results and reach their full potential. She has designed and delivered leadership programs for Fortune 500 organizations, including Cardinal Health, Procter & Gamble, and Sysco, across North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. To keep her work grounded in current leadership thinking, Claudia holds certifications in Polarity Management®, Core Strengths Relationship Intelligence®, Skilled Facilitation®, EQ-i Emotional Intelligence®, and Working Genius®. Outside her work with leaders and teams, she loves travelling the world, exploring new cultures, and seeing as much live music as possible.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Leading with Influence: People, Government and Media



SESSION A

Dr. Kwame McKenzie

Chief Executive Officer, Wellesley Institute

Dr. Kwame McKenzie is CEO of Wellesley Institute, a Professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Psychiatry, Director of Health Equity at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and a practising psychiatrist. His expertise is the social causes of illness and the development of effective, equitable social policy and health systems. Over three decades, he has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers and six books, and has advised health ministers in the United Kingdom and Canada, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. He is a member of Canada's National Advisory Council on Poverty, Co-Chair of Ontario's Black Health Plan, and Chair of the Board of Right to Food. His honours include the Harry Jerome Award and the African Canadian Achievement Award for Science.



SESSION A

Pete Bombaci

Founder and CEO, GenWell

Pete Bombaci is the Founder and CEO of GenWell, Canada's Human Connection Movement. Since launching GenWell in 2016, he has led a national effort to help Canadians understand the critical role social connection plays in mental, physical, and societal well-being. This work is grounded in growing public health evidence, and the World Health Organization has identified social connection as a foundational pillar of health. GenWell delivers social health education in workplaces, schools, municipalities, and community and seniors-focused organizations across Canada. In 2025 alone, it directly engaged more than 10,000 Canadians through workshops and millions more through six national campaigns. Previously, Pete served as Country Director of Movember Canada, helping raise \$142 million for men's health.



SESSION B

Jim Pine

Principal Consultant, Consultancy & Strategy

Jim Pine had a long and successful career in municipal affairs, retiring in June 2023 after 43 years at the provincial and local government levels, 33 of them as a CAO. Since then, his consulting work has included executive search, organizational review, strategic planning, project management, and regional broadband and cellular infrastructure projects in eastern Ontario. In September 2019, he led a province-wide stakeholder consultation for the Ministry of Health on modernizing public health and emergency health services, and he later served as Special Advisor to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Grey Bruce Public Health Unit. Jim has long been active in municipal advocacy, serving as Secretary-Treasurer and a board member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and as President of the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association.



SESSION B

Sabine Matheson

Principal, StrategyCorp

Sabine Matheson has been a Principal at StrategyCorp since 1998 and founded its Municipal Affairs Practice Group, which has served well over a hundred municipalities across Canada. She is currently strategic advisor to Ontario's Large Urban Mayors Caucus on provincial relations and has also advised AMO, AMCTO, and OMAA. A well-known commentator on the municipal world, Sabine has been lead author of StrategyCorp's influential Annual CAO Survey since 2016. She previously 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, and she also teaches provincial-municipal relations through AMCTO.



SESSION C

John Perenack

Principal, StrategyCorp

John Perenack is a Principal at StrategyCorp and a public affairs and communications expert with 25 years of experience advising organizations on reputation and on communicating with government, media, communities, and other stakeholders. A specialist in crisis communications and reputation management, he has handled high-stakes matters including kidnapping, financial crime, allegations of criminal staff misconduct in the education and health care sectors, and controversial mergers and acquisitions. John is also a skilled media trainer and coach who has helped hundreds of executive spokespeople get their messages across clearly and concisely. Over his career, he has worked with every level of government and with organizations across many sectors, including health care.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

The Role of Public Health Leaders in Quality Improvement: From Championing Change to Accountability for Success with Public Health Ontario (PHO)



WELCOMING REMARKS

Dr. Pepi McTavish

Associate Medical Officer of Health, Durham Region Health Department

Dr. Elspeth (Pepi) McTavish is an Associate Medical Officer of Health with Durham Region Health Department and an Adjunct Lecturer in the Clinical Public Health Division at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Her public health portfolio includes infectious disease prevention and control, immunization, and sexual health. She is also active in public health leadership through alPHA, serving as Vice Chair and as the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section representative for Central East.



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Michael Sherar

President and CEO, Public Health Ontario

Michael Sherar is President and CEO of Public Health Ontario (PHO), the provincial agency that provides evidence to inform policy, builds public health capacity, and runs integrated public health laboratory and surveillance systems. Before joining PHO in 2022, he was interim Transitional Lead and Chief Corporate Officer for the Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation. Michael spent 17 years at Cancer Care Ontario, nine as President and CEO, where he expanded the agency's mandate, built infrastructure to support health system improvement across Ontario, and led its transition into a division of Ontario Health.



MODERATOR

Dr. Tamara Wallington

Vice President and Chief, Population Health, Public Health Ontario

Dr. Tamara Wallington is Vice President and Chief, Population Health at Public Health Ontario, where she leads PHO's work generating evidence to guide action on health promotion and environmental and occupational health. A physician leader with more than 20 years of experience across Ontario's health system, she has served as an Associate Medical Officer of Health at Toronto Public Health, Vice President, Clinical at the Central West LHIN, and Program Chief and Medical Director at Trillium Health Partners. She is also a part-time Assistant Professor in the University of Toronto's Department of Medicine.



FACILITATOR

Dr. Madelyn Law

Niagara Health

Dr. Madelyn Law is an Associate Professor in Brock University's Department of Health Sciences and has served as Niagara Health's Director of Quality, Patient Safety and Risk. Her research focuses on building high-performing health systems through organizational culture, change management, and quality improvement. She is the founder and Director of I-EQUIP, the Interprofessional Education for Quality Improvement Program, through which she has mentored more than 200 students and health professionals on 65 improvement projects across Niagara. She has also helped develop and oversee a locally driven collaborative project on continuous quality improvement with staff from 30 Ontario public health units.



FACILITATOR

Dr. Christine Shea

University of Toronto

Dr. Christine Shea is Program Director of the MSc in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety and an Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream) at the University of Toronto's Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. Her teaching focuses on leadership, change, quality improvement, and patient safety, including a graduate course on leading and managing change. She brings more than 25 years of experience consulting with high-reliability, safety-critical organizations around the world on how people relate to safety, risk, and performance in health care, aviation, rail, and the nuclear industry. In Ontario, she served as curriculum lead and faculty for the IDEAS Advanced Learning Program, the province's quality improvement program for health care.