

- Title:** **Public Health to Lead and Coordinate the Response to Address the Opioid Crisis Capitalizing on the Momentum of Managing the COVID-19 Emergency**
- Sponsor:** **Grey Bruce Health Unit**
- WHEREAS** public health has been the leading agency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and
- WHEREAS** public health excelled in mobilizing the community and partners to address the pandemic; and
- WHEREAS** public health successfully managed the pandemic; and
- WHEREAS** the opioid epidemic is a public health issue that predates the COVID-19 pandemic by over a decade; and
- WHEREAS** evidence shows that in many areas throughout Ontario, the COVID-19 pandemic is compounding the opioid crisis, with substance use related harms significantly increasing throughout the duration of the pandemic; and
- WHEREAS** boards of health are mandated under the Ontario Public Health Standards to reduce the burden of preventable injuries associated with substance use;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies call on all stakeholders and levels of government to capitalize on the momentum in combating COVID-19 and channel the above efforts to lead and coordinate the community and partners to address the opioid crisis as soon as soon as practical, taking into account the impact of the pandemic.

ACTION FROM CONFERENCE: Carried as Amended