

alPHa's members are
the public health
units in Ontario.

alPHa Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
Organizations:**

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of
Public Health Nursing
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in
Public Health

Dear alPHa Members,

September 11, 2019

Re: Update on Public Health Modernization

As summer is a time for many of us to step away from the demands of our professional lives, at least for a little while, September means “back to business”, and I would like to welcome you all back from what I hope was a relaxing and enjoyable July and August.

Recognizing that the Government's Public Health Modernization initiative was likely not too far from anyone's mind over the past two months, I would like to take this opportunity to provide information on developments that have occurred since the update that was sent by alPHa's Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, on July 25th.

During the alPHa Conference, on June 11th, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams outlined a process that was to include a consultation during the month of July followed by Ministry analysis of the feedback in August. Although there were some preliminary discussions of proposals in the spring with members of the alPHa Executive (the confidential “Technical Tables” that were mentioned during his conference presentation), no further meetings have taken place and the consultation has not yet commenced.

Shortly after the July 25th member update, alPHa wrote a letter to Dr. Williams requesting further information, given that the timeframe he provided in June had passed. We have not yet received a written response to that letter, but additional details were provided by the Minister of Health at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference on August 19th, with Loretta Ryan (alPHa Executive Director), Paul Roumeliotis (COMOH Chair) and I in attendance.

Minister Elliott confirmed changes to the previously announced cost-sharing arrangement, which will now be 70/30 for almost all programs in all health units as of January 1, 2020, and then announced that a renewed consultation on the restructuring aspect, to be managed by a yet-to-be-named “special advisor”, will begin soon with public health partners and municipalities. This is expected to begin with the release of a discussion paper and we will communicate the details and timelines as soon as possible.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that Dr. Williams will be attending the next meeting of the alPHa Board of Directors, which takes place on September 27th and that both Dr. Williams and the Minister of Health are confirmed speakers at alPHa's November 6th [Fall Symposium](#) in Toronto. These will be further opportunities for direct dialogue with our provincial partners and we hope that the record attendance at our June Conference will be repeated as a further demonstration of the commitment of our membership to working with the Province while ensuring that the capacity and mandate of Ontario's public health system are maintained and, where possible, strengthened.

alPHA remains committed to working hard on behalf of its members to ensure the best possible outcome for Ontario's public health system once the promised consultations begin. Please see alPHA's dedicated web page that houses our communications and updates, statements from other stakeholders, local board resolutions and other related information. Please check this page often and note that further details about the information outlined above can be found there.

(https://www.alphaweb.org/page/PHR_Responses).

We hope that you find this information useful and I look forward to continuing to work with all boards and to ensure effective communication with everyone over the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHA, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 647-325-9594.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carmen McGregor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" and last name "McGregor" clearly distinguishable.

Carmen McGregor,
alPHA President