



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

Distinguished Service Awards

June 6, 2024

2024 Award Recipients



Doug Lawrance

Doug Lawrance displays exemplary devotion to public health with his outstanding contributions as a strong advocate demonstrating exceptional qualities of leadership and achieving results through his distinctive acts of service. Doug Lawrance has generously, and tirelessly served Ontario's Northwest as an exceptional Board of Health Chair, and as a key municipal leader, particularly during the acute phase of COVID-19. He continually demonstrates his commitment to public health in his municipal leadership role as the third term Mayor of the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, as a member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Health Transformation Task Force, and as a Director on the Kenora District Services Board. He has served on the Board of Directors for the: Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association; and Kenora District Municipal Association. He has garnered exceptional insight throughout his career working in northern municipalities and remote First Nations. Doug Lawrance is an outstanding advocate for local public health, across the Northwest, and as a contributor to the advancement of Ontario's public health system he is responsive to Ontario's initiatives on Strengthening Public Health and the Modernization of Public Health. At the federal, provincial, and municipal levels, he has dedicated countless volunteer hours in public health leadership on numerous projects with a focus on finding solutions to the devastating effects that alcohol, addictions, and the social determinants of health have on the population across the north - with its significantly higher statistics than other parts of the province. Doug Lawrance is a key figure in meetings with federal and provincial politicians, government officials, and other key decision makers. Doug Lawrance is a staunch supporter of local public health and a strong advocate of alPHa as the unified voice for Ontario's local public health system. Doug Lawrance is a true public health champion!



Dr. Brent Moloughney

Dr. Brent Moloughney has been a COMO member since becoming an Associate Medical Officer of Health and then as Deputy MOH with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) in 2020. Over the course of the pandemic peak, Dr. Moloughney was OPH's representative in Ottawa's COVID-19 Testing Taskforce and worked alongside OPH's MOH, Dr. Vera Etches, as a spokesperson for the health unit through some of the hardest times the organization had experienced. He maintained his passion for preventing chronic disease by: supporting OPH efforts to influence the built environment; advancing OPH's capacity for healthy public policy; and, co-chairing the Chronic Disease Prevention Working Group alongside the Ministry and Public Health Ontario (PHO) to provide recommendations regarding revisions to provincial standards, as well as clarifying public health and healthcare system roles. Following completion of his specialty training in public health and preventive medicine (PHPM) in 1994, Dr. Moloughney worked in regional public health in Regina, and provincial public health in Ontario's Ministry of Health and later in his career with PHO. As a full-time public health consultant for 18 years, he was sought out as an expert in the design and functioning of public health systems and organizations across the country, as well as led many workforce development projects including identifying Minimum Competencies for Medical Officers of Health in Canada, as well as the core roles for public health to address health equity. He led multiple projects in Ontario with local public health agencies, alPHA, OPHA, the Ministry, PHO, and academic institutions. In addition to supervising PHPM residents, he served on the national PHPM Board of Examiners for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. We are thankful that Dr. Moloughney has been a member of COMO and for his many positive contributions to the field of public health.



Steven Rebellato

Steven Rebellato is the Vice President of the Environmental Health Department at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. He has served on the alPHA Board since 2016, representing the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario. Steven has previously served on the alPHA Executive Committee and is currently serving as the liaison, Artificial Intelligence and Climate Change, to the Board of Directors. Steven earned his PhD in Public Health from the University of Waterloo, where he has also been serving as an Adjunct Professor for several years contributing to the MPH program and its External Advisory committee. Steven holds a part-time faculty position as an Assistant Professor at McMaster University in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, & Impact. Additionally, he is a Fellow at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where he is involved in the AMS-Fitzgerald Fellowship focusing on Artificial Intelligence and Human-Centered Leadership. In his professional and academic career, Steven has authored several peer-reviewed research papers focusing on various topics in public health including infectious disease, climate change and environmental health. Steven has served as the Chair (currently vice-Chair) of the York Hills Centre for Children, Youth, and Families in the Region of York, underscoring his commitment to advancing public health and community well-being.



Dr. Robert Hawkins

Dr. Robert Hawkins has worked in several Ontario Public Health units since 2003. He has worked as a dental consultant for Halton Region, Region of Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, Grey Bruce and Renfrew County. Currently, he is a dental manager with York Region Public Health in their Seniors Dental Program. He has been a member of the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) and served on their executive committee since 2007. He was the author of their position statement on poverty and oral health. Dr. Hawkins has served in the past as a board member of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry; and was an editorial consultant for the Canadian Dental Association. He has participated in several Ontario Ministry of Health working groups, including groups on the Ontario Public Health Standards and Guidance Document, the Oral Health Protocol, and the Low-Income Dental Program and Healthy Smiles Ontario. He has authored or co-authored twenty peer-reviewed journal articles about dental public health which have focussed on topics such as access to oral health care, prevention and promotion interventions, and the effectiveness of fluoride varnish and water fluoridation.



Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award reflects the commitment of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to recognize the significant contributions made to public health in Ontario by board of health members, health unit staff, and public health professionals.

Eligibility of the award is open to any of alPHA's members, including medical officers of health, board of health members, members of Affiliate organizations and, occasionally, individuals outside the Association.

The Award is given to those individuals who have demonstrated exceptional qualities of leadership in their own milieu, achieved tangible results through long service or distinctive acts, and shown exemplary devotion to public health at local and provincial levels.

Previous Distinguished Service Award recipients can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to our 2024 Distinguished Service Award recipients!



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