



Board of Health Meeting Summary

Wednesday December 13, 2023

Welcome of New Board of Health Member

The Board of Health welcomed Dr. Ramesh Makhija, Ph.D., C.Chem., FCIC as a new provincial appointee.

Presentation: The Health Impacts of Climate Change: A Vulnerability Assessment

Julie Bromley, Manager, Environmental Health, delivered a presentation on the public health impacts of Climate Change. Over the past year, Peterborough Public Health (PPH) has worked with a multi-disciplinary group of staff and external partners to develop a Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment (CCHVA). Mandated by the Ontario Public Health Standards under the Healthy Environments Program Standard and the Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018, the CCHVA leverages local data sources to depict how climate change will affect health in our region. Based on this analysis, the Peterborough Public Health (PPH) region will experience significant increases in the number of hot days and heat waves by 2050, and even greater increases by 2080. Key hazards for the region include increased extreme temperatures and weather events, food and water security and safety, vector-borne disease, air quality, and ultraviolet radiation. Some populations will experience increased vulnerability to these hazards, especially infants, children and youth, people who are pregnant, and older adults. Other factors, such as income, being Indigenous, experiencing homelessness, substance use will compound the negative health impacts of climate change. PPH will use the CCHVA to inform multiple next steps, including collaboration with key community partners, awareness raising efforts, and development of adaptation programming and policy. These efforts will be guided by a Two-Eyed Seeing approach, which attempts to bring together Indigenous Knowledge and Western science to see the issue of climate change from both perspectives.

Presentation: Formula for Public Health Impact

Hallie Atter, Director of Health Promotion, provided a report detailing the unique position of public health within the broader health system. A key role of public health is to mobilize local data and evidence to improve health outcomes. This is often achieved through health promotion strategies, programs, and interventions. Describing health promotion as a layered, multi-strategy approach, Atter stated how these strategies work upstream to prevent or delay disease. This includes a suite of actions to prevent and mitigate poor health outcomes, decrease health inequities, and achieve multi-generational positive impacts. Effective health promotion strategies are tailored to local population and context, and work to strengthen local resilience to future threats and emergencies. Examples of highly successful, locally tailored health promotion strategies include reductions in lung cancer mortality rates, prevention of chronic disease, and collaborative efforts to promote equitable food access. Following Atter's presentation, the Board of Health endorsed a recommendation to advocate to the province for strong investment in local health promotion activities and to

prioritize proactive local engagement to guide a pending provincial review of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

Staff Report: Impact of Strategic Plan Implementation through One-Time Funding Activities

Larry Stinson, Director of Operations, reviewed the impacts of the Board of Health's one-time investment of reserve funds to support implementation of several priorities identified in the [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#). Stinson described the impact of this investment for three key areas: digital information system transformation, population participatory data collection to inform equitable service delivery, and staff wellness. To date, \$314,000 has been spent to support implementation of multiple strategic plan objectives. A further investment of \$129,700 has been committed to support strategic plan initiatives in 2024.