



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health
DATE: 2016 January 21

PATIENTS FIRST – PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH & ONTARIO'S HEALTH SYSTEM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 004-16: “Patients First – Proposed Changes to Public Health & Ontario’s Health System” for information.

Key Points

- On December 17, 2015 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released the “*Patients First – A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario*” discussion paper.
- The proposed changes will impact public health, changing the current relationship between public health units and the Local Health Integration Networks.
- The proposal requires legislative changes which are expected to be tabled by the spring of 2016.
- The Board of Health will be kept apprised as further information becomes available.

Patients First – Discussion Paper

On December 17, 2015, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care released a discussion paper titled “[*Patients First – A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario*](#)”. The discussion paper recommends expanding the role of the Local Health Integration Networks in four areas. The proposed model would require changes to legislation. The ministry is reviewing relevant Acts and intends to propose draft legislation for consideration by the Legislative Assembly in the spring of 2016.

Both the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) have provided an initial analysis of the discussion paper and the potential areas of impact on public health. These analyses are attached as [Appendix A](#). The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) Board of Directors has begun to develop a response process for the discussion paper. As a first step, alPHA developed a short survey to collect members’ initial reactions which closed January 8, 2016.

The Ministry has identified a number of questions about how to successfully plan for and implement the proposed changes and hopes to receive feedback on those questions. Feedback and further questions can be sent to health.feedback@ontario.ca or submitted at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/hb_20151217.aspx.

This report was prepared by Mr. John Millson, Associate Director of Finance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie'.

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Medical Officer of Health