

Middlesex-London Board of Health External Landscape Review – December 2024

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform MLHU Board of Health members about what is happening in the world of public health and impacts to the work of the MLHU and Board. This includes governance and legislative changes, news from other local public units, external reports on important public health matters, learning opportunities and MLHU events. **Please note that items listed on this correspondence are to inform Board members and are not necessarily an endorsement.**

National, Provincial and Local Public Health Advocacy


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Resolution to withhold HART Hub support fails at council

At the November 27 City of Timmins Council meeting, Council voted in favour of supporting a HART Hub application for an old Ramada Inn hotel in Timmins, ON, titled the "Wellness Centre of Excellence".

Council listened to a presentation regarding the Wellness Centre of Excellence, or HART Hub (Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment), project in response to a request council made in September for an update. Jean Carriere, director of Health Services for the Cochrane District Services Board, and Paul Jalbert, executive director for the Canadian Mental Health Association's Cochrane Temiskaming Branch, outlined where things stand and attempted to answer some of the concerns raised. The Wellness Centre of Excellence will not provide emergency shelter/homeless shelter services, supervised consumption and safe supply programs for drug use, or be an enabling environment.

Councillors Curley, Feldman, Gvozdanovic and Whissell voted in favour of the resolution, while Councillors Black, Marks, Robin and Mayor Boileau opposed its passage, creating the four-to-four tie, which resulted in its defeat.

To read the full article, visit the Timmins Daily Press [website](#).

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Province of Ontario announced the closure of 10 consumption and treatment sites in Ontario, and followed with the introduction of the *Safer Streets, Stronger Communities Act* on [November 18](#). The Province's alternative is the HART Hub, which many partners have applied for. In Middlesex-London, the [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) has submitted an intention to operate a HART Hub.


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The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2024

Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada released her report on the State of Public Health in Canada, titled "[Realizing the Future of Vaccination for Public Health](#)".

Dr. Tam notes that "vaccines provide protection across the life course against a range of infectious diseases. They also can prevent some chronic conditions, like certain types of cancer, and play a role in addressing antimicrobial resistance. Vaccination additionally has wide ranging economic and societal benefits. It can ease strain on healthcare resources, reduce costs to the healthcare system, and increase economic productivity. Successful vaccination efforts help to mitigate the disproportionate impact of infectious diseases on some populations that experience differential exposure, susceptibility, and access to treatment." Further, Dr. Tam calls on the public health system to take advantage of future advancements in vaccine technology.

To read the full report, visit the Chief Public Health Officer's report page on the Public Health Agency of Canada's [website](#).

Impact to MLHU Board of Health

The Board of Health had heard the benefits of vaccination within the community and continues to promote it. Further within the Current Public Health Issues updates, the Medical Officer of Health has emphasized the importance of vaccination and how the Health Unit is supporting those in equity-deserving groups receive vaccination.

