

CORRESPONDENCE – February 2021

- a) Date: January 13, 2021
Topic: 2021 Annual Budget Update
From: City of London
To: Dr. Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

Background:

On January 12, 2021, Municipal Council for the City of London resolved that the Middlesex-London Health Unit, increased funding by the Ministry of Health – Operating Expenditure (\$610, 000); Net Levy (\$610, 000) be approved.

Recommendation: Receive.

- b) Date: February 2, 2021
Topic: Land and Water Border Restrictions
From: Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
To: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Background:

On February 2, 2021 the Board of Health for Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau requesting further consideration for to implement the same restrictions in place for air travelers to those travelers entering Canada from the United States land and water borders. Tighter controls at all Government of Canada approved border crossings will help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Recommendation: Receive.

- c) Date: January 21, 2021
Topic: Paid Sick Days
From: Ms. Peggy Sattler, MPP
To: Dr. Christopher Mackie and Ms. Maureen Cassidy

Background:

On January 21, 2021, Ms. Peggy Sattler wrote to the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) in regard to the Private Member's Bill she introduced in the Ontario Legislature on December 8, 2020, the *Stay Home If You are Sick Act (Bill 239)*. This Act will provide permanent paid sick days for Ontario workers during the pandemic and beyond. The Bill amends the *Employment Standards Act* to provide up to 14 days of paid Infectious Disease Emergency Leave and up to seven days of paid Emergency Leave for illness, injury, bereavement or family care, and eliminates the requirement for a doctor's note. Ms. Sattler requests the support of MLHU through endorsement of Bill 239.

Recommendation: Receive.

- d) Date: January 25, 2021
Topic: Spring 2021 Budget Consultations
From: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
To: Ontario Boards of Health

Background:

On January 25, 2021, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies wrote to all Ontario Boards of Health providing input for consideration in preparation for the spring 2021 Budget for continuing Ontario's COVID-19 response and recovery. The immediate needs to be addressed in the budget include:

- Immediate reverse the change to the provincial-municipal public health cost-sharing formula.
- Harmonize funding announcements and their allocation.
- Health Equity Pandemic Planning.

In addition, there were a number of longer-term considerations mentioned pertaining to the preservation of public health core functions.

Recommendation: Receive.

- e) Date: January 28, 2021
Topic: School Food Programs
From: Council of Ontario Directors of Education, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
To: Premier Doug Ford

Background:

On January 28, 2021, the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) wrote to Premier Ford requesting urgent consideration of the submitted proposal regarding Priority and Proactive Steps to Ensure Universal Access to Student Nutrition Programs. The proposal presents recommendations that could be operationalized immediately as well as in the future that would allow Student Nutrition Programs to grow into strong and universal supports for all young learners.

Recommendation: Receive.

- f) Date: January 29, 2021
Topic: Safe Return to School is an Essential Priority
From: Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health
To: Honourable Stephen Lecce and Honourable Christine Elliott

Background:

On January 29, 2021, the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) wrote to

Minister Lecce and Minister Elliott supporting the reopening of schools as an essential for children as community rates of COVID-19 decrease across the province. Safe reopening of all schools is supported by evidence-based data showing the risk of transmission from children to children and children to adults in primary school and daycare settings is low when public health measures are in place and are followed. It is recommended that reopening schools should be a priority, even before community restrictions are lifted and ensuring that public health measures are maximized to support schools reopening.

Recommendation: Receive.

- g) Date: January 25, 2021
Topic: New eLearning for Public Appointees
From: Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer,
Ministry of Health
To: Provincial Agencies and Health and Long-Term Care Entities

Background:

On January 25, 2021, Mr. Peter Kaftarian informed that the government launched a new eLearning program for all public appointees, which will be administered by the Public Appointments Secretariat (PAS). The program provides appointees with the foundational knowledge on the agency sector, their roles and responsibilities as public appointees, including fiduciary duties and acting in an ethical way. PAS will send emails to appointees with instructions on how to access the training between now and April 2021. All current and future public appointees will be expected to complete this new eLearning. It will be required to be completed once every five years and appointees will not be entitled to receive remuneration to complete this mandatory training.

Recommendation: Receive.

- h) Date: February 1, 2021
Topic: Mandatory Paid Sick Leave for Ontario Workers
From: Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
To: Honourable Doug Ford

Background:

At its meeting on January 27, 2021 the Board of Health for Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health passed a motion to call on the Provincial Government to provide adequate sick days to workers through amendments to the Employment Standards Act, 2000. These amendments include requirements for employers in Ontario to provide no less than five paid sick days annually to workers, after three months of employment, and no less than ten paid sick days annually when an infectious disease emergency has been declared, and to remove any requirements for employees to provide certification from a qualified health practitioner to their employer to qualify for paid sick leave. The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health further endorses in principle, Bill 239, the *Stay Home If You Are Sick Act*.

Recommendation: Receive.

- i) Date: February 9, 2021
Topic: Paid Sick Leave as a Public Health Measure
From: Association of Local Public Health Agencies
To: Honourable Doug Ford

Background:

On February 9, 2021, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) wrote to Premier Doug Ford in support for the calls for the permanent inclusion of paid sick leave provisions under the Employment Standards Act, as a public health measure to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases including COVID-19. Reinstating guaranteed paid sick leave under the Employment Standards Act will help to ensure that workers do not have to choose between their livelihoods and following public health directives.

Recommendation: Endorse