



# **Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Board of Health Meeting**

Information Items

**Wednesday, December 4 ,2024**

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## **Listing of Information Items Board of Health Meeting – December 4, 2024**

1. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health – Letter of support re Hastings County for application for funding to The Bridge Integrated Care Hub through the John Howard Society – Belleville dated September 17, 2024
2. HKPR District Health Unit – Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau et al re Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income” dated September 19, 2024
3. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Minister Mark Holland re New measures to help prevent harms to youth from nicotine replacement therapies dated September 11, 2024
4. Peterborough Public Health – Letter to Prime Minister Trudeau et al re Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income dated October 2, 2024
5. Sudbury & Districts Public Health – Letter to Minister Jones and Mr. Michael Sherar re Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water dated October 16, 2024 (see also Gore Bay and Manitoulin Islands letter)
6. Peterborough Public Health – Letter to Premier Doug Ford et al re Funding support for student nutrition programs dated October 29, 2024

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*The above information items can be found on the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health’s website through the link in the Agenda Package or by going to our website at [hpePublicHealth.ca](http://hpePublicHealth.ca).*



## Main Office - Belleville

179 North Park Street, Belleville, ON K8P 4P1

T: 613-966-5500 | 1-800-267-2803 | F: 613-966-9418

TTY: 711 or 1-800-267-6511

[hpePublicHealth.ca](http://hpePublicHealth.ca)

September 17, 2024

**Attention: Deborah Headley, Director**

Hastings County

Community and Human Services

228 Church Street

Belleville, ON K8N 5E2

*Via email: [headleyd@hastingscounty.com](mailto:headleyd@hastingscounty.com)*

Dear Ms. Headley:

Communities across Canada are being impacted by the opioid crisis, and Hastings Prince Edward Region is no exception. However, there are currently very limited local services to support individuals struggling with substance use and addictions. While local agencies have been working to gain momentum on development of a solution for some time, in 2020, the intersecting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, poisoned drug supplies in our region, and a housing affordability crisis across the province reinforced the need for an urgent and immediate local intervention.

As part of these efforts, the Drop-In Centre located in the basement of the Bridge Street United Church was created as an expansion of a smaller-scale drop-in previously located within John Howard Society offices. Originally focusing on providing basic needs such as shower and laundry facilities, harm reduction, and food security, this Drop-In program has evolved, and will now become the Integrated Care Hub located at 1 Alhambra Square in Belleville, in partnership with many other local agencies and services.

All partners involved recognize that we need a strategic and long-term solution for this ongoing crisis, and are working together to create a Community Drug Strategy. However, while this strategic work is underway to address system issues related to substance use and addiction, urgent action is required now, to provide immediate assistance to the population affected by substance use, addictions, and drug poisoning.

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health is pleased to support the Integrated Care Hub, and the mission and mandate of the John Howard Society's drop-in program which provides much needed services to those most at risk of negative outcomes related to substance use and addictions. This collaborative approach to support our community's most vulnerable population will make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve while we work together to identify and implement longer term solutions. We are

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### North Hastings

1P Manor Ln., L1-024, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0

T: 1-800-267-2803 | F: 613-332-5418

### Prince Edward County

Suite 1, 35 Bridge St., Picton, ON K0K 2T0

T: 613-966-5500 | F: 613-476-2919

### Quinte West

499 Dundas St. W., Trenton, ON K8V 6C4

T: 613-966-5500 | F: 613-965-6535

committed to continue working closely with the John Howard Society and the rest of our stakeholders at the Integrated Care Hub moving forward. Immediate investment in the drop-in program is required to maintain basic support services that are making a significant difference in the lives of the population in need, as well as reducing burden on other areas of the health care system.

We are pleased to support the JHSB's application for funding to maintain adequate staffing at the drop-in.

Sincerely,



Ethan Toumishey, MD, MPH, CGFP, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and CEO  
Hastings Prince Edward Public Health



Trust • Engagement • Accountability • Leadership

September 19, 2024

The Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
[Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
[chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health  
[mark.holland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.holland@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Karina Gould  
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons  
[karina.gould@parl.gc.ca](mailto:karina.gould@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Andrew Scheer  
[Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca)

Alain Therrien  
House Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
[Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca)

Peter Julian  
House Leader of the New Democratic Party  
[peter.julian@parl.gc.ca](mailto:peter.julian@parl.gc.ca)

Standing Senate Committee on National Finance  
[nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, House Leaders, and National Finance Committee,

**Re: Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”**



Port Hope Office  
200 Rose Glen Rd.  
Port Hope, ON  
L1A 3V6

Haliburton Office  
Box 570  
191 Highland St., #301  
Haliburton, ON  
K0M 1S0

Lindsay Office  
108 Angeline St. S.  
Lindsay, ON  
K9V 3L5

1-866-888-4577  
[info@hkpr.on.ca](mailto:info@hkpr.on.ca)  
[hkpr.on.ca](http://hkpr.on.ca)



Hon. Prime Minister Trudeau  
 Hon. Chrystia Freeland  
 Hon. Mark Holland  
 Karina Gould  
 Andrew Scheer  
 Alain Therrien  
 Peter Julian  
 Standing Senate Committee on National Finance  
 September 2024  
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At its meeting held on September 19, 2024, the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU) discussed and endorsed correspondence from Middlesex-London Health Unit urging the support of Bills S-233 and C-223 "An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income", currently being considered by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and in the process of the second reading in the House of Commons.

The HKPRDHU has provided longstanding support for income-based solutions to reduce rates of poverty and household food insecurity. In the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District area, 8.7% of Northumberland households, 10.2% of Kawartha Lakes households, and 12.9% of Haliburton households, live in poverty and struggle to pay for rent, bills and healthy food [1].

When families cannot afford to buy the food they want and need to maintain good health, they are food insecure. Food insecurity is a symptom of poverty.

The health consequences of food insecurity and poverty incur significant costs to Canada's publicly funded healthcare system. Adults in food insecure households are more likely to be diagnosed with a wide range of chronic conditions, including mental health disorders [2], higher stress and anxiety [3], non-communicable diseases [4], and infections [5]. Research also shows that children and teens in food insecure households are more likely to have poorer health, develop chronic conditions like asthma and develop mental health conditions such as depression, social anxiety and suicidal thoughts [6], [7], [8]. Food insecurity also makes it difficult to self-manage conditions through diet [9]. Research linking food insecurity data from population health surveys with administrative health records has provided strong evidence that food-insecure people are more likely to be hospitalized for a wide range of conditions, stay in hospital longer, more likely to be readmitted to hospital and die prematurely (before the age of 83) from all causes except cancer [10].

Inadequate income and household food insecurity result in poor health outcomes and higher healthcare costs. The Board of Health for HKPRDHU supports upstream income-based solutions such as



guaranteed livable basic income as essential components to effectively reduce poverty and household food insecurity.

We appreciate your consideration of this important public health issue.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA,  
PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

David Marshall, Board of Health Chair

DM:st

cc: MP Jamie Schmale  
MP Philip Lawrence  
City of Kawartha Lakes  
Haliburton County  
Northumberland County  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Public Health Association  
Ontario Public Health Units

Standing Senate Committee on National Finance

National Finance Committee NFFN@SEN.PARL.GC.CA  
Senator Claude Carignan, Chair, National Finance Committee claud.carignan@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Éric Forest, Deputy Chair, National Finance Committee Eric.Forest@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Clément Gignac, Clement.Gignac@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Larry W. Smith, LarryW.Smith@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Rosa Galvez, Rosa.Galvez@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Tony Loffreda, Tony.Loffreda@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Jane MacAdam, Jane.MacAdam@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Joan Kingston, Joan.Kingston@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Elizabeth Marshall, elizabeth.marshall@sen.parl.gc.ca  
Senator Pierre J. Dalfond, PierreJ.Dalfond@sen.parl.gc.ca



☎ 1-866-888-4577    ✉ [info@hkpr.on.ca](mailto:info@hkpr.on.ca)    🌐 [hkpr.on.ca](http://hkpr.on.ca)

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Senator Kim Pate, [Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kim.Pate@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
Senator Krista Ross, [Krista.Ross@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Krista.Ross@sen.parl.gc.ca)





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- [8] M. Melchior, J.-F. Chastang, B. Falissard, C. Galéra, R. E. Tremblay, S. M. Côté and M. B. 7, "Food Insecurity and Children's Mental Health: A Prospective Birth Cohort Study," *PLoS One*, vol. 7, no. 12, p. e52615, 2012.
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September 11, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Holland:

**Re: New measures to help prevent harms to youth from nicotine replacement therapies**

Public Health Sudbury & Districts commends the Honourable Mark Holland for the recent Ministerial order to introduce additional safeguarding measures regarding nicotine replacement therapies (NRT). We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to protect youth from targeted advertising, restrict access to nicotine pouches, and prevent further misuse of NRT which are intended to be used by adults trying to quit smoking.

The new measures outlined in your order are a significant step forward in limiting the interest, access, and recreational use of NRT among young people. These measures align closely with our previous [board resolution](#) (#26-24) and [correspondence](#) to your office, wherein we urged Health Canada to address the regulatory gap which allowed the sale of nicotine pouches to youth. We also called for increased regulations to restrict the sale of emerging tobacco and nicotine products to ensure that access remains strongly regulated and kept away from children and youth.

We are pleased to recognize that your Ministerial order has addressed these concerns and demonstrate your continued commitment to public health and the protection of youth. We thank you for your attention to this important issue and look forward to working alongside the Ministry of Health to promote and protect the health of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Mark Signoretti (Sep 12, 2024 12:49 EDT)

Mark Signoretti, Vice Chair, Board of Health *on behalf of*  
René Lapierre, Chair, Board of Health

M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC  
Acting Medical Officer of Health and  
Chief Executive Officer

**Sudbury**

1300 rue Paris Street  
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.522.5182

**Elm Place**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
Box / Boîte 58  
St.-Charles ON POM 2W0  
t: 705.222.9201  
f: 705.867.0474

**Espanola**

800 rue Centre Street  
Unit / Unité 100 C  
Espanola ON P5E 1J3  
t: 705.222.9202  
f: 705.869.5583

**Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0  
t: 705.370.9200  
f: 705.377.5580

**Chapleau**

34 rue Birch Street  
Box / Boîte 485  
Chapleau ON POM 1K0  
t: 705.860.9200  
f: 705.864.0820

**toll-free / sans frais**

1.866.522.9200

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The Honourable Mark Holland

September 11, 2024

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cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Canada's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health  
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Yasir Naqvi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Honorable Mark Holland  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario  
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury  
All Ontario Boards of Health  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

October 2, 2024

The Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
[Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance  
[Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Mark Holland  
Minister of Health  
[Mark.Holland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Mark.Holland@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon  
Leader of the Government in the House of Commons  
[Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Steven.MacKinnon@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Andrew Scheer  
House Leader of the Official Opposition  
[Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca)

Alain Therrien  
House Leader of the Bloc Québécois  
[Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca)

Peter Julian  
House Leader of the New Democratic Party  
[Peter.Julian@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Peter.Julian@parl.gc.ca)

Standing Senate Committee on National Finance  
[nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca)

**RE: Support for Bills S-233 and C-233 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income”**

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, House Leaders, and National Finance Committee:

Peterborough Public Health (PPH) agrees with our peers in Middlesex-London, Ottawa Public Health and Thunder Bay Public Health Units, in our support for a guaranteed livable basic income as a policy option for addressing poverty, income and food insecurity and for boosting opportunities for people with lower incomes. We urge you to support Bills S-233 and C-233 “An Act to develop a national framework for a

*guaranteed livable basic income*”, currently being considered by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance and in the process of the second reading in the House of Commons. These Bills are designed to ensure progress towards developing a basic income model that will be effective in moving individuals and their families out of poverty.

An agreed model, when implemented, will impact many lives. In 2022, 10.9% of Ontarians lived in poverty based on the Market Basket Measure, an increase from 7.7% in 2021.<sup>1</sup> In 2022, 16.2% of Peterborough households, with or without children (20,210 people), were low income based on the Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT).<sup>2</sup> Nearly one in five (19%) local households live in a food insecure household.<sup>3</sup> PPH conducts the Nutritious Food Basket survey annually to monitor the affordability of food in Peterborough City and Region. The 2023 results, with its various case studies, demonstrate that incomes, particularly when dependent on social assistance, are not adequate for many residents of Peterborough and its region to afford basic needs.<sup>4</sup>

As our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Thomas Piggott pointed out at a recent local Symposium on Healthy Incomes: “All paths to health lead to income.” The evidence to support this assertion is significant:

### **The link between income and health or well-being**

- Income has a critical impact on health, with better health outcomes associated with higher income levels, and poorer health outcomes associated with lower income levels.<sup>5</sup>
- Income increases access to other social determinants of health (e.g., education, food, housing).<sup>5</sup> In fact, income is understood as having the strongest socioeconomic determinant of food insecurity.<sup>6,7</sup>
- Children living in poverty have an increased risk for cognitive shortfalls and behavioural conditions, and an increased risk of negative health outcomes into adulthood (e.g., cardiovascular disorders, certain cancers, mental health conditions, osteoporosis and fractures, dementia).<sup>8,9,10</sup>
- Food insecurity is associated with an increased risk of a wide range of physical and mental health challenges, including chronic conditions, non-communicable diseases, infections, depression, anxiety, and stress.<sup>11,12,13,14,15,16</sup>
- Among young children, food insecurity is also associated with poor child health, low birth weight, chronic illness, developmental risk, and poor cognitive outcomes, including vocabulary and math skills.<sup>17,18,19</sup>

### **Findings from interventions**

Evidence from Canadian trials and internationally suggests that basic income positively impacts health and wellbeing.<sup>20, 21</sup> Successful examples of a Canadian basic income include the Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). In a cohort of individuals over 65 receiving OAS/GIS, compared to a cohort aged 55-64 years, the probability of food insecurity was reduced by half, even when age, sex, income level, and home ownership were considered.<sup>22</sup> In addition, evidence suggests income supplementation reduces food insecurity for low-income Canadians and positively impacts childhood health outcomes (e.g., birth weight, mental health).<sup>23</sup> Early findings about the impact of cash transfers in British Columbia also indicate reduced homelessness and substance use for people recently unhoused.<sup>24</sup>

Upstream income-based solutions, such as a guaranteed livable basic income, are needed to address poverty, income insecurity, and household food insecurity and their significant impacts on health and well-being.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*  
Councillor Joy Lachica  
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Michelle Ferreri, Member of Parliament, [Michelle.Ferreri@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Ferreri@parl.gc.ca)  
 Philip Lawrence, Member of Parliament, [Philip.Lawrence@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Philip.Lawrence@parl.gc.ca)  
 Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament, [Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jamie.Schmale@parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Percy Mockler, Chair, National Finance Committee, [Percy.Mockler@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Percy.Mockler@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Éric Forest, Deputy Chair, National Finance Committee, [Eric.Forest@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Eric.Forest@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Clément Gignac, [Clement.Gignac@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Clement.Gignac@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Larry W. Smith, [LarryW.Smith@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:LarryW.Smith@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Jean-Guy Dagenais, [Jean-Guy.Dagenais@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jean-Guy.Dagenais@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Rosa Galvez, [Rosa.Galvez@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rosa.Galvez@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Tony Loffreda, [Tony.Loffreda@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Loffreda@sen.parl.gc.ca)  
 Senator Jane MacAdam, [Jane.MacAdam@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jane.MacAdam@sen.parl.gc.ca)

## References:

- <sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0135-01 Low-income statistics by age, sex and economic family type. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1110013501-eng>.
- <sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 11-10-0018-01 After-tax low-income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure (CFLIM-AT), by family type and family type composition. DOI: [After-tax low income status of tax filers and dependants based on Census Family Low Income Measure \(CFLIM-AT\), by family type and family type composition \(statcan.gc.ca\)](https://doi.org/10.25318/1110013501-eng)
- <sup>3</sup> This number is a 3-year average from the Canadian Income Survey (CIS) that needs to be interpreted with caution due to a small sample size and variability in the sample. Food insecurity numbers may be underestimated as CIS samples do not include unhoused individuals or Indigenous Peoples living on-reserve.
- <sup>4</sup> Peterborough Public Health. Addressing Food Insecurity in Peterborough – An Urgent Call to Action. December 2023.
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- <sup>9</sup> Maalouf, M., Fearon, M., Lipa, M. C., Chow-Johnson, H., Tayeh, L., & Lipa, D. (2021). Neurologic Complications of Poverty: the Associations Between Poverty as a Social Determinant of Health and Adverse Neurologic Outcomes. *Current neurology and neuroscience reports*, 21(7), 29.
- <sup>10</sup> Wise, P. H. (2016). Child poverty and the promise of human capacity: childhood as a foundation for healthy aging. *Academic pediatrics*, 16(3), S37-S45.
- <sup>11</sup> Jessiman-Perreault, G. & McIntyre, L. (2017). The household food insecurity gradient and potential reductions in adverse population mental health outcomes in Canadian adults. *SSM - Population Health*, 3:464-472.
- <sup>12</sup> Francis, J., Mildon, A., Tarasuk, V., Frank, L. (2024) Household food insecurity is negatively associated with achievement of prenatal intentions to feed only breast milk in the first six months postpartum. *Frontiers in Nutrition*. 11 (1-10)
- <sup>13</sup> Men, F., Elgar, F.J., Tarasuk, V. (2021) Food insecurity is associated with mental health problems among Canadian youth. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 75(8), 741-748.
- <sup>14</sup> Men, F., Tarasuk, V. (2020) Severe food insecurity associated with mortality among lower-income Canadian adults approaching eligibility for public pensions: A population cohort study. *BMC Public Health* 20(1) 1-9.
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October 16, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honourable Minister Sylvia Jones  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2C8

Michael Sherar  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Public Health Ontario  
661 University Avenue, Suite 1701  
Toronto, ON M5G 1M1

Dear Minister Jones and Mr. Sherar:

**Re: Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water**

At its meeting on September 19, 2024, the Board of Health carried the following resolution [#48-24](#):

*WHEREAS twenty-two percent of households within the Public Health Sudbury & Districts service area rely on private drinking water systems; and*

*WHEREAS it is recommended that drinking water be tested frequently to ensure that it is safe for human consumption; and*

*WHEREAS exposure to contaminated drinking water can lead to severe gastrointestinal illness and in rare cases may result in death; and*

**Sudbury**

1300 rue Paris Street  
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.522.5182

**Elm Place**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
Box / Boîte 58  
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0  
t: 705.222.9201  
f: 705.867.0474

**Espanola**

800 rue Centre Street  
Unit / Unité 100 C  
Espanola ON P5E 1J3  
t: 705.222.9202  
f: 705.869.5583

**Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0  
t: 705.370.9200  
f: 705.377.5580

**Chapleau**

34 rue Birch Street  
Box / Boîte 485  
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0  
t: 705.860.9200  
f: 705.864.0820

**toll-free / sans frais**

1.866.522.9200

[phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca)



Letter

Re: Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water

October 16, 2024

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*WHEREAS anyone can become ill from drinking contaminated water; however, children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects; and*

*WHEREAS Public Health Ontario's Well Water Testing program is a publicly-funded service that tests water samples from private drinking water sources for indicators of bacterial contamination; and*

*WHEREAS testing drinking water quality at private laboratories can be cost prohibitive; and*

*WHEREAS Public Health Ontario in conjunction with the Ministry of Health has proposed joint modernization plans in 2017 and again in January 2023 that proposed discontinuing well water testing as part of a plan to streamline operations; and*

*WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario in its December 6, 2023 [Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#), called for Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health to move forward with streamlining laboratory operations in consideration of the proposed modernization plans; and*

*WHEREAS Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health have not yet announced a final plan for streamlining laboratory operations at this time;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly recommends to the Minister of Health and to Public Health Ontario that Ontario's Well Water Testing program be continued in the plan to implement streamlined laboratory operations, and That the Board of Health endorse the resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of the Corporation of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands (May 23, 2024), and the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024) concerning provincial well water testing.*

Exposure to contaminated drinking water can cause debilitating gastrointestinal illness, particularly in children, older adults and people with weakened immune systems. Close to one quarter of households within Public Health Sudbury & Districts service area rely on private drinking water systems. For these residents, drinking water testing is the only way to know if their drinking water is safe.

For the well-being of residents, our Board of Health support the continuation of Ontario's publicly funded Well Water Testing program and affirm resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of the

Letter

Re: Support for Ontario to continue to protect the safety of private drinking water

October 16, 2024

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Corporation of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands (May 23, 2024), and the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024) concerning provincial well water testing.

Maintaining publicly-funded drinking water testing is a needed service that protects many Ontarians utilizing private drinking water systems. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RL', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

René Lapierre

Chair, Board of Health

cc: Dr. M. M. Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Local Municipalities  
Ontario Boards of Health  
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma – Manitoulin  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies



May 14, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re:Public Health Ontario proposes phasing out free water testing for private wells**

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Gore Bay adopted the following resolution at their meeting of May 13, 2024, regarding the above noted matter;

15772

*Moved by Kelly Chaytor*

*Seconded by Rob Dearing*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gore Bay Council supports the Township of Archipelago's request to the Province of Ontario to reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing out of free private drinking water testing services;*

*FURTHER, this resolution is circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Minister of Health, and Sudbury District Health Unit.*

*Carried*

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stasia Carr', written in a cursive style.

Stasia Carr  
Clerk

Cc:

Minister of Health [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)

Sudbury District Health Unit [sutcliffep@phsd.ca](mailto:sutcliffep@phsd.ca)

Ontario Municipalities



May 23, 2024

Bradford West Gwillimbury  
100 Dissette Street  
Units 7 & 8  
Box 100  
Bradford, Ontario  
L3Z 2A7

Thank you for bringing your resolution to our attention. Well water testing is an important need of many of our residents as well.

Council reviewed your resolution and passed the following motion in support with a slight change for our region.

Resolution No. 114-05-2024

Moved by: L. Cook

Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands supports the well water testing resolution put forth by Brandford west Gwillimbury and further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Manitoulin Sudbury Health Unit.

Carried

Thank you

Pam Myers

Clerk



6020 Highway 542, P.O. Box 420  
Mindemoya, ON POP 150  
Tel:705-377-5726  
Fax:705-377-5585  
Email: [ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca](mailto:ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca)

July 8, 2024

Item #5

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON. M7A 1A1

Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford,

**RE: PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO PROPOSES PHASING OUT FREE WATER TESTING FOR PRIVATE WELLS**

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin adopted the following resolution at their meeting of June 27, 2024, regarding the above noted matter;

Resolution # 200-2024

Moved by: Councillor D. Stephens

Seconded by: Councillor Mitchell

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT Central Manitoulin Council supports the Township of Archipelago's request to the Province of Ontario to reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing out of free private drinking water testing services;***

***FURTHER, this resolution is circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Minister of Health, and Sudbury District Health Unit...Carried***

Please contact our office should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Deforge", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Ms. Denise Deforge  
CAO/Clerk

cc. Minister of Health [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)  
Sudbury District Health Unit [sutcliffep@phsd.ca](mailto:sutcliffep@phsd.ca)  
Ontario Municipalities



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Jackson Square, 185 King Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8  
P: 705-743-1000 or 1-877-743-0101  
F: 705-743-2897  
[peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://peterboroughpublichealth.ca)

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October 29, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Hon. Michael Parsa  
Minister of Child, Community and Social Services  
[MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca](mailto:MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca)

Hon. Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Education  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford and Honourable Ministers:

**Re: Funding support for Student Nutrition Programs**

The Board of Health at Peterborough Public Health would like to stress the importance of the Government of Ontario negotiating and signing an agreement with the federal government that will see federal funding to support provincial student nutrition programs (SNPs), as outlined in the [National School Food Policy](#). In addition, the Board of Health urges that the Province address and increase government funding to SNPs that would close the gap between the national median contribution and provincial contribution. Specifically, the Board urges an increase of provincial funding contribution by \$0.29/student/day to match the national median (provincial/territorial and municipal government contribution) of \$0.39/student/day.

Universal access to nourishing food every day at school supports students' academic success, reduces tardiness, and improves student behaviour. An important step towards health equity and well-being, student nutrition programs contribute to students' physical and mental wellness and foster social connection in a welcoming, stigma-free environment. Program success requires all levels of government to be engaged and supportive of an adequately funded delivery model.

The Board of Health supports negotiating the terms to enhance current programming and help fund new SNPs at schools. As public health experts with extensive experience, including a 32-year history of supporting local programs and working with Ontario SNPs, we urge that a universal program provide a nourishing and culturally appropriate daily meal, use best practices in food safety and delivery, as well as function in inspected and adequately equipped spaces. Programs teach students Canada's Food Guide messages by providing a hands-on learning opportunity to eat more vegetables and fruit, whole grains and protein foods in a socially inclusive environment where they enjoy, prepare and eat healthy food with others.



While a sustainable school food program does not replace adequate income support for underserved families, they do provide nourishment so that students are better able to learn and participate in school, establish healthier eating habits (which may reduce the risk of chronic disease), and foster academic success with improved scores in math, reading and science.

We look forward to seeing the Province enhance their support for adequately funded SNPs in order that all children have access to nourishing food at school every day which will contribute to their overall health and well-being and academic success.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

Councillor Joy Lachica  
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Local MPPs  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Boards of Health