



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, August 21, 2026

	Pages
1. <u>CWCD 2026-191</u> Summary of Active Bid Solicitations	1
2. <u>CWCD 2026-192</u> Summary of Public Works Capital Investments During this Term of Regional Council by Local Municipality/Service Area	4
3. <u>CWCD 2026-193</u> Water Quality Management System Annual Report	7
4. <u>CWCD 2026-194</u> 2026 AMO Conference Overview	15
5. <u>CWCD 2026-195</u> alPHa Letter - Provincial Funding for Local Public Health Agencies	19

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-191

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, August 21, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Bart Menage, Director, Procurement Services

Please be advised that the Bid Solicitations included in Appendix 1 are currently active.

As per the Procurement By-law 2025-57, section 19. Reporting, item 19.1 The Director, Procurement Services shall:

(a) report to Council on a weekly basis via Councillor Weekly Correspondence Distribution:

(i) a summary of active Bid Solicitations.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Bart Menage
Director, Procurement Services

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-RFP-90	Employee and Family Assistance and Critical Incident Response Program for The Regional Municipality of Niagara, Niagara Regional Police Service, and Niagara Transit Commission	August 21, 2026
2026-RFP-114	Railway Grade Crossing Safety Assessment	August 25, 2026
2026-RFP-121	Baker Rd WWTP & Outfall EA Geotechnical Investigations	August 27, 2026
2026-T-120	Traffic Signal Rebuild on Regional Road 29 (Lincoln Avenue) at Regional Road 54 (Prince Charles Drive), in the City of Welland	August 28, 2026
2026-RFP-119	Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant Intake Contingency Planning	August 31, 2026
2026-T-133	New Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) on Thorold Rd at Barron Avenue, in the City of Welland	August 31, 2026
2026-T-127	Materials Testing Services For The Reconstruction Of RR 100 (Casablanca Blvd) Between The RR 39 (North Service Rd) And RR 512 (Livingston Ave) In The Town Of Grimsby	September 01, 2026
2026-T-129	Medium Priority Instrumentation Calibrations	September 01, 2026
2026-RFP-115	Niagara Talent Attraction Campaign	September 02, 2026
2025-T-227	Grimsby Lincoln Booster Generator Upgrade	September 04, 2026
2026-T-137	Supply and Delivery of Five (5) Three-Quarter Tonne Pick-up Trucks	September 04, 2026
2026-NRFT-117	Spring Gardens Sanitary Pumping Station (SPS) and Forcemain (FM) Upgrade in the City of St. Catharines	September 08, 2026
2026-RFP-122	Consulting Engineering Services for the Niagara Falls Watermain Replacement Study	September 08, 2026
2026-T-125	Campbell West Roof Replacement	September 14, 2026

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2026-T-108	Roof System Replacement at Rapelje Lodge Long Term Care home	September 15, 2026
2026-T-128	Contract Administration and Inspection Services for the Rehabilitation of Bridges and Structures	September 16, 2026
2026-RFP-134	Landfill Kiosk Upgrades	September 17, 2026
2026-RFP-96	Niagara EMS Fleet Maintenance, Inspection, Servicing, and Repairs	September 18, 2026

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-192

Subject: Summary of Public Works Capital Investments During this Term of Regional Council by Local Municipality/Service Area

Date: Friday, August 21, 2026

To: Regional Council

From: Lisa De Angelis, Commissioner of Public Works

Recently, there have been multiple requests for data associated with Regional expenditures on infrastructure during the current term of council. The appended tables provide an 'order of magnitude' estimate of the investment in infrastructure (prioritized through our asset management planning process) from 2023 to present, by municipality.

Please note that water and wastewater service areas do not necessarily coincide with municipal boundaries. Thus, the investment noted refers to the infrastructure located within that municipality and the area that it serves. For example, the regionally owned water and wastewater infrastructure located in the City of Welland also supports service to and benefits residents and businesses in the Town of Pelham and the City of Thorold (Port Robinson).

Similarly, while transportation investment has been presented by municipality, all residents and businesses benefit from having a robust well-connected transportation network for movement of goods and people across the entire peninsula and to points beyond.

A fulsome list of projects invested in will follow on a future CWCD to council.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Lisa De Angelis
Commissioner, Public Works

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Regional Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Investment (2023 to 2026)

Appendix 2 - Regional Transportation Infrastructure Investment (2023 to 2026)

Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Investment (2023 to 2026)

Municipality	Water	Area Served	Wastewater	Area Served
Fort Erie	\$23,678,909	Fort Erie	\$14,640,136	Fort Erie
Grimsby	\$11,178,909	Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln	\$10,964,136	Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln
Lincoln	\$24,628,909	Lincoln	\$12,990,136	Lincoln
Niagara Falls	\$10,878,909	Niagara Falls, NOTL, Thorold	\$41,286,386	Niagara Falls, NOTL
NOTL	\$15,728,909	NOTL	\$3,390,136	NOTL
Pelham	\$1,178,909	Pelham	\$2,990,136	Pelham
Port Colborne	\$54,020,909	Port Colborne	\$70,750,136	Port Colborne
St Catharines	\$26,778,909	St Catharines, Thorold, NOTL	\$24,190,136	St Catharines, Thorold, NOTL
Thorold	\$3,928,909	Thorold	\$3,240,136	Thorold
Welland	\$18,478,909	Welland, Pelham,	\$22,290,136	Welland, Pelham, Thorold (Port Robinson)
West Lincoln	\$7,741,909	West Lincoln	\$4,490,136	West Lincoln
Total	\$198,223,000		\$211,221,750	

Regional Transportation Infrastructure Investment (2023 to 2026)

Municipality	Transportation Investment
Fort Erie	\$11,248,081
Grimsby	\$25,448,081
Lincoln	\$28,298,081
Niagara Falls	\$108,543,181
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$37,560,581
Pelham	\$13,858,081
Port Colborne	\$9,508,081
St Catharines	\$69,929,823
Thorold	\$13,198,081
Wainfleet	\$18,423,081
Welland	\$12,348,081
West Lincoln	\$31,448,081
Total	\$379,811,314

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-193**Subject:** Water Quality Management System Annual Report**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2026**To:** Regional Council**From:** Holly Philbrick, Water and Wastewater Quality Management Specialist

Purpose

This memo is being submitted to Regional Council to provide an annual update regarding the ongoing performance of the Water Quality Management System (QMS) which includes key QMS milestones achieved throughout 2026. These milestones support the Water-Wastewater Division's Water QMS as required by the Ontario *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* and our own internal procedures. The Water QMS Report is a key communication tool between Top Management of the Water and Wastewater Division and the System Owner, Niagara Region Council. It allows Top Management to provide Council with updates and also gives Council an opportunity to provide feedback to Top Management. This communication is required under Element 12 "Communications" of the Ontario *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* (DWQMS).

Key Points:

- Niagara Region's Water QMS remains accredited, effective, and in conformance, with no audit non-conformances identified in 2026.
- The *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* was created under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and requires Drinking Water System Owners to implement and maintain an accredited Water QMS.
- Our Water QMS is a structured system designed to ensure compliance with consumer and regulatory standards, emphasizing best practices, continual improvement, and corrective actions to enhance drinking water quality and operational performance.
- Niagara Region's water treatment plants continue to consistently provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water.
- The Water QMS Report is submitted to Regional Council to report on the performance of the Water QMS and key milestones achieved in 2026, as required by the *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* and internal procedures.

- According to the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, as Owners of Niagara Region's drinking water systems, Regional Council must “exercise the level of care, diligence and skill in respect of the system that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation” and “act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking-water system.”

Background

Niagara Region holds an accredited Water Quality Management System as required by the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*.

The *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* mandates the development, implementation, and accreditation of a Water QMS that conforms to the *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS)*. An accredited Water QMS is also a condition of issuance of a municipal drinking water licence. Niagara Region holds five municipal drinking water licences, one for each of its drinking water systems.

The Water QMS ensures processes meet regulatory standards, Top Management and the Owner provide guidance and endorsement.

The Water QMS is a structured approach to managing and improving our processes to ensure they meet consumer and regulatory requirements. It emphasizes best management practices, continual improvement, and implementing corrective actions to enhance operational performance and produce high quality drinking water. Top Management, including the Commissioner of Public Works, Director of Water and Wastewater, and related Associate Directors, are at the highest management level within our operating authority and make decisions respecting the QMS and recommendations to Council, as the owner of the system, regarding Niagara Region's drinking water systems.

Owner endorsement (Council endorsement) of the Water QMS is a requirement in keeping the accreditation of the QMS. Niagara's Water QMS was endorsed by Regional Council on March 23, 2023 under PW 5-2023, Drinking Water Compliance and Water Wastewater Quality Management System Endorsement. Re-endorsement of the Water QMS Operational Plan is required upon each new term of Council or if significant modifications are made to its content.

Regional Councillors are responsible for ensuring the safety and integrity of municipal drinking water systems, adhering to the "Standard of Care" clause of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*

As Owners of the Niagara Region's drinking water systems, Regional Councillors have defined responsibilities under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*. A significant responsibility is the "Standard of Care" clause (section 19 of the *Act*); the clause requires Councillors to "exercise the level of care, diligence and skill in respect of a municipal drinking water system that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation" and to "act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking water system."

The Water QMS supports Regional Council to meet the Standard of Care, providing confidence that water services are delivered in accordance with policies and procedures. These policies and procedures outline our service delivery standards that support regulatory compliance requirements.

All councillors are encouraged to complete Standard of Care training. Information on how to enroll in this training was provided through CWCD 2026-17 earlier this year and will be shared again when the new term of Council begins.

Audits strengthen Niagara Region's Water QMS and ensure continued accreditation.

Audits serve a critical function in Niagara Region's Water QMS. They confirm the effectiveness of the management system and strengthen system performance through the identification of continual improvement opportunities. Both internal audits required by Element 19 of the DWQMS, and external audits required by the accrediting body must be completed annually, providing assurance that the QMS continues to meet applicable requirements and supports the ongoing delivery of safe, reliable drinking water.

Should an auditor find that a requirement of the DWQMS or an established internal standard operating procedure was not fully met at the time of the audit, the auditor will note this as a "non-conformance". Non-Conformances are a constructive tool that supports corrective action and continual improvement. A non-conformance is distinct from a regulatory non-compliance, which involves a failure to meet a legal or licence requirement.

Internal audits, completed by qualified water personnel, confirm the QMS is effectively implemented and maintained, and verify conformance of the Water QMS with *Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*. External audits of the Operating Authority are conducted by NSF. This firm is the accreditation body for the Water QMS.

Accreditation of the Region’s Water QMS is a condition of the Region’s Municipal Drinking Water Licences that are issued by the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). This accreditation process requires both annual external accreditation audits and annual internal audits.

No Non-Conformances identified in the 2026 Water QMS Internal Audit.

Typically, the WWW Division conducts its own internal audits with qualified staff. As a best practice for 2026, an external provider, Acclaims Environmental, was used to conduct the internal audit in June 2026 to confirm the the QMS is effectively implemented and maintained and conforms to the requirements of Ontario’s *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*.

Although no instances of non-conformance were identified, several Opportunities for Improvement were recommended. The number of internal audit findings for the Water QMS is included in Table 1. For each finding, a corrective action process is initiated which is designed to address the audit finding and explore opportunities to improve. The auditing and corrective action process helps to ensure that the quality management system remains relevant and appropriate.

Table 1: Water QMS Internal Audit Findings

Finding Type	Number of Findings
Non-Conformance	0
Potential Non-Conformance	0
Opportunities for Improvement	12

No Non-Conformances were identified in the June 2026 External Audit for the Water QMS.

NSF conducted a thorough re-certification Audit in June 2026 to confirm the QMS is effectively implemented and maintained and conforms to the requirements of Ontario’s *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*.

The number of audit findings are included in Table 2 and indicate the maturity of the Water QMS and diligent operational practices. NSF confirmed that the Water QMS is effectively implemented and maintained in accordance with Ontario’s *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*. Several positive aspects of the Management System were noted, and the successful audit resulted in NSF recommending recertification.

Table 2: External Audit Findings

Finding Type	Number of Findings
Non-Conformance	0
Potential Non-Conformance	0
Opportunities for Improvement	3

The 2026 Water QMS Risk Assessment review, required by Ontario’s DWQMS resulted in action plans that help to support delivery of reliable water services.

The *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* requires that a Risk Assessment be conducted every three years and reviewed on an annual basis. A Risk Assessment was last completed in 2024, and an annual risk review was last completed in February 2026. The risk assessment process draws the experience from a cross-functional group of staff to identify potential service delivery challenges, practical preventative measures, and improvement opportunities. The outcome of each assessment results in action plans that help to support delivery of reliable water services.

The new risks or risks identified as newly high scoring during the 2026 risk assessment review can be found in Appendix 1. While new risks were added in 2026, staff believe existing control measures and/or risk action plans adequately address these risks and minimize their potential effect on service delivery. Any previously identified high-scoring risks are in the process of being mitigated through capital projects, operational adjustments, or through continual improvement initiatives.

Top Management met to review and evaluate the Water QMS for compliance, performance, and improvement opportunities.

A formal meeting with members of Water QMS Top Management and the QMS Representative is held twice per year to review the complete management system including regulatory compliance, water quality, risk assessment, audit results, emergency response, operational performance, and action items to ensure effective quality management as required by the *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard*. During these meetings, Top Management evaluates the continuing suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness of the Water QMS and identifies corrective actions and continual improvement opportunities to enhance the QMS and associated operations. Action items identified at the Water QMS Management Review meetings are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Management Review Meetings and Results – Water QMS

Review Meeting	Date	Results
Part 2 – 2024	Nov. 13, 2024	Two action items relating to Risk Assessment: • Revise the drinking water risk assessment process including scoring and incorporation of objective asset measures, and develop a sustainable Critical Control Point reporting solution
Part 1 – 2025	July 8, 2025	One action item relating to Continual Improvement: • Track items tied to larger projects to improve visibility of outstanding actions
Part 2 – 2025	Dec. 10, 2025	One action item relating to Continual Improvement: • Collaborate with Top Management to risk-rank open action items
Part 1 – 2026	April 16, 2026	Two action items relating to QMS Policy and Resources Required: • Revise the Water Quality Management System Policy to reflect reliability in water treatment and production and identify unsupported software systems being migrated to the cloud for review with IT
Part 2 – 2026	TBD	

External changes that may impact the Water QMS

The MECP has released Version 3 of the DWQMS, and minor updates to the Operational Plan and supporting documents will be required to conform to the new standard. These changes will be incorporated into the Water QMS prior to the 2028 deadline.

Staff meet quarterly with municipal counterparts to improve service delivery.

Staff meet quarterly with municipal counterparts to share best practices and improve service delivery. Water Operating Authority Staff meet quarterly with Area Municipal counterparts to address challenges, share best practices, evaluate operating procedures, and develop common approaches for efficient and effective service delivery.

Public and/or Service users

The Water QMS Policy and Water QMS accreditation information, are available to the public and service users via the Niagara Region's external website.

The most current approved version of the Water QMS Operational Plan or any Water QMS supplementary documents are available upon request to Water-Wastewater Quality Management Specialist, holly.philbrick@niagararegion.ca.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Holly Philbrick, B.Sc., MPH
Water & Wastewater Quality Management Specialist

This report was reviewed by John Brunet, Associate Director, Water Operations, Jason Oatley, Associate Director, Quality, Regulation, and Compliance, and Phill Lambert, P.Eng., Director of Water & Wastewater Services.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Water QMS Risk Assessment

Appendix 1

Water QMS Risk Assessment

Two new low-scoring risks were identified during the 2026 Water QMS risk review, and one existing risk was re-rated as newly high-scoring. Table 1 lists the risks added in 2026, and Table 2 identifies the newly high-scoring risk.

Table 1: Risks added to Water QMS Risk Assessment

Hazardous Event	Plant Location
Hazardous Event: Development of leaks in elevated storage tank Consequence: Asset taken out of service for repair, reducing the system's ability to maintain and regulate pressure within the affected zone	Welland WTP
Hazardous Event: Failure of the diesel drive or associated pump system during operation Consequence: Back up power cannot be supplied when required	Niagara Falls WTP

Table 2: Risks identified as newly high scoring

Hazardous Event	Plant Location
Hazardous Event: Public trespassing on regional property Consequence: Potential contamination of raw water, injury to the public, waste of regional resources, threat to regional staff	Decew Falls WTP

Memorandum

CWCD 2026-194**Subject:** 2026 AMO Conference Overview**Date:** Friday, August 21, 2026**To:** Regional Council**From:** Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

The 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference was hosted in Ottawa, Ontario from August 16 to 19. This memo provides a summary of remarks provided by Premier Ford, as well as delegation outcomes.

Premier Address

The Premier's address focused on the provincial government's efforts to support Ontarians while strengthening economic resilience. Premier Ford highlighted measures undertaken in response to ongoing tariff and trade actions by the United States, including supporting local businesses, attracting foreign direct investment, and creating employment opportunities across the province. He also referenced tax relief initiatives and supports for local businesses introduced through Budget 2026.

The Premier noted that the Province continues to work collaboratively with municipalities to deliver the infrastructure needed to accommodate growth. He reiterated that his government is working through applications submitted through the Development Charge Reduction Program and looks forward to making additional funding announcements in the coming weeks.

Delegation Outcomes

Delegation One: Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General and Doug Downey, Attorney General (Councillor Attendees: Foster, Greenwood, Kaiser, Olson)

Request: that the Ministry of the Solicitor General and Ministry of the Attorney General partner in Niagara's Highly Supportive Housing initiative by providing capital and operating funding, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Children, Communities and Social Services.

-
- The Solicitor General and Attorney General expressed an interest in the Region's Highly Supportive Housing initiative and recognized the anticipated cross-ministerial cost savings.
 - Both ministries were supportive of continuing discussions following the conference to explore partnership opportunities.

Delegation Two: Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
(Councillor Attendees: Heit, Insinna, Ugulini, Witteveen)

Requests:

1. That the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism expedite permitting approval for the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions (SNWTS) project.
 2. That a working group be established in partnership with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement and the Ministry of Red Tape Reduction to support resolutions of an ongoing Burial Site Investigation (BSI) order.
- The Minister was extremely receptive and supportive of both requests and understood the need for provincial partnership.
 - Minister McGregor committed that Ministry staff would follow up with the Region on permitting approvals for the SNWTS. He also confirmed that his Ministry would initiate the creation of a working group to support ongoing BSI challenges. Regional staff look forward to working with the Province on next steps.

Delegation Three: John Jordan, Parliamentary Assistant (PA) to the Minister of Health (Councillor Attendees: Morocco, Bateman, Kaiser)

Requests:

1. That the Ministry of Health partner in Niagara's Highly Supportive Housing initiative by providing capital and operating funding, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Children, Communities and Social Services.
 2. That the Ministry of Health commit to a minimum of a 1 per cent Public Health base budget increase in the upcoming review of the Public Health funding model.
- PA Jordan acknowledged the growing need for Highly Supportive Housing across Ontario. He inquired if the proposed initiative would complement

Niagara's HART Hub and requested further information be provided on the specific development site to further advance funding discussions.

- PA Jordan recognized that municipalities are awaiting clarity on future Public Health funding agreements. He directed Ministry staff to follow up with the Region on timing following the AMO conference. Regional staff look forward to receiving additional information from the Ministry.

Delegation Four: Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs, First Nation Economic Reconciliation (Councillor Attendees: Greenwood, Insinna, Heit, Seaborn)

Request: that the Ministry provide guidance and standardized protocol for municipal partners during First Nation engagement during Environmental Assessments.

- Minister Rickford acknowledged that there are currently no clear guidelines for municipalities fulfilling the provincially mandated Duty to Consult.
- The Minister advised that his Ministry would be holding a roundtable in the fall or winter of 2026 with municipal partners to further discuss opportunities to streamline the engagement process. Regional delegates confirmed interest in participating in the roundtable and look forward to following up with Ministry staff in Q3/Q4 2026.

Delegation Five: Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Minister of Infrastructure (Acting) (Councillor Attendees: Morocco, Campion, Insinna, Olson, Foster, Ugulini, Witteveen)

Request: that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) expedite permitting approval for the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions (SNWTS) project.

- Minister McCarthy acknowledged that the SNWTS is a priority project for the Region. He recognized that the project is critical to supporting growth across Niagara and will be a key driver in supporting the Government of Ontario in meeting the objectives set out within the Province's Destination Niagara Strategy.
- The Minister committed that Ministry staff would prioritize permitting approval for the project. Regional staff look forward to following up with MECP on next steps.

Delegation Six: Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation (Councillor

Attendees: Olson, Seaborn, Witteveen)

Requests:

1. That the Ministry of Transportation expedite permitting approval for the South Niagara Wastewater Treatment Solutions (SNWTS) project.
2. That the Government of Ontario purchase the CN Rail Corridor between Hamilton and Niagara Falls to immediately advance GO service on the Niagara Line.
 - Minister Sarkaria expressed appreciation for the Region providing advanced notice regarding the SNWTS permitting timelines. He committed Ministry staff to providing support and flagged that there would be a benefit to coordinating all permitting requirements in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to ensure staff are aware of project timelines, expediency requirements and sequencing. Regional staff look forward to following up with MTO staff on next steps.
 - The Minister expressed appreciation for Niagara's support for GO expansion. He acknowledged that increasing GO train service directly supports the Government's Destination Niagara Strategy and suggested that a formal request be sent to his team to continue advancing conversations.

Delegation Seven: Michelle Cooper, Parliamentary Assistant (PA) to the Minister of Finance (Councillor Attendees: Insinna, Foster, Heit, Ip, Greenwood)

Request: that the Government of Ontario update the municipal funding framework to reflect the true cost of municipal program delivery and infrastructure expenditures.

- PA Cooper acknowledged the funding pressures that exist for municipalities. To mitigate these pressures, the Minister expressed interest in the status of the Region's Core Services Review and recommended other revenue-generating strategies for certain infrastructure builds, such as fundraising for police and hospital builds.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer

alPHa's members are
 the public health
 units in Ontario.

alPHa Sections:

Boards of Health
 Section

Council of Ontario
 Medical Officers of
 Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate
 Organizations:**

Association of Ontario
 Public Health Business
 Administrators

Association of
 Public Health
 Epidemiologists
 in Ontario

Association of
 Supervisors of Public
 Health Inspectors of
 Ontario

Health Promotion
 Ontario

Ontario Association of
 Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of
 Public Health Nursing
 Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in
 Public Health

August 20, 2026

Hon. Sylvia Jones
 Minister of Health
 College Park, 5th Flr,
 777 Bay St
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: Provincial Funding for Local Public Health Agencies

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), including its Boards of Health Section, the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, and our Affiliate Organizations, I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for announcing an extension of the 1% annual increase in provincial base funding for local public health units for another year.

We appreciate the Province's continued commitment to local public health and the greater certainty this provides as boards of health plan and allocate resources for the coming year.

At the same time, alPHa remains concerned that a 1% annual increase is not sufficient to maintain the current scope of provincially mandated public health programs and services. According to the Bank of Canada, inflation has averaged nearly 3.5 per cent over the past five years, and corresponding annual public health base funding increases have been well under this rate. This has contributed to ongoing pressure on local public health capacity.

Inflationary pressures have a measurable impact on local public health agencies' capacity to deliver the programs and services for which they are legally responsible under Ontario's Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) and the Ontario Public Health Standards. In addition to these, they must absorb substantial costs related to collective bargaining, operating costs, technology upgrades, innovation strategies related to program and service delivery, facilities, and expenditures related to growing and changing populations.

As cost pressures outpace investments year after year, our members are experiencing increasing difficulty in maintaining capacity, service reliability, and readiness. Local public health agencies are committed to prudent financial management, pursuing efficiencies and innovation, sharing approaches, and collaborating with municipal and health-system partners. However, these measures on their own cannot fully address the growing gap between available funding for our mandate and the cost of fulfilling it.

A healthy economy is not possible without healthy people. Public health is a foundational component of Ontario's health-care system and is a critical driver of economic strength. By preventing illness, protecting communities, and promoting long-term health, public health contributes to higher productivity, reduced health-care costs, and economic prosperity. For these reasons, public health needs sufficient, predictable, and sustained funding to ensure its long-term stability.

Public health units will continue to make every effort to deliver essential services and protect the health of their communities with the resources available to them, and alPHa looks forward to continuing its constructive relationship with the Province and to working together to support strong, effective and sustainable public health services across Ontario.

We would be pleased to discuss this with you further, and welcome your staff to contact Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa, at loretta@alphaweb.org or 416-595-0006 x 222 to follow up.

Sincerely,



Carmen McGregor
alPHa Chair

Copy: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario. alPHa advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, alPHa's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.