



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

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Friday, March 20, 2026

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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 2026-41

Subject: Summary of Active Bid Solicitations

Date: Friday, March 20, 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-T-1	RR77 Fourth Ave Slope Stabilization	March 23, 2026
2025-RFP-178	Regional Road 50 (Niagara Street), Riverbank Street to Regional Road 27 (West Main Street), Welland – Bridge Replacement, New Underground Infrastructure, and Roadway Reconstruction	March 25, 2026
2025-T-37	Dain City Sewage Pumping Station Rehabilitation	March 25, 2026
2026-RFSQ-35	Grass Cutting and Seasonal Clean Up Services for Niagara Region – Water and Wastewater	March 25, 2026
2026-RFP-21	Transportation Biennial Bridge Condition Study Engineering Services for Bridge and Culvert Inspection	March 26, 2026
2026-RFI-34	Customer Relationship Management System	March 27, 2026
2026-T-14	Thorold Transportation Building Renovation Project – Construction Contractor	March 27, 2026
2026-T-2	Supply & Installation of Decals on Niagara Transit Commission Vehicles	March 27, 2026
2025-T-44	Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant UV Upgrades	March 30, 2026
2026-RFP-13	Tree Supply and Tree Planting Services Contract	April 02, 2026
2026-Q-36	Adobe Software License Renewals for NRPS	April 03, 2026
2026-T-18	Niagara Region LTC - Commercial Kitchen Equipment Replacement & Upgrades	April 09, 2026
2025-RFP-199	HVAC Demand and Preventive Maintenance Services for Long-Term Care Homes	April 13, 2026
2026-RFP-27	Supply, Delivery Maintenance and Commissioning of Dual-View Inductively Coupled Plasma -Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES) for the Niagara Region Environmental Laboratory (NREL)	April 14, 2026
2026-T-31	Supply of Sewer Flow Meter Equipment for Gravity Sewer Mains	April 14, 2026
2024-T-194	St. Catharines Train Station – Exterior/Interior Alterations – Phase II	April 16, 2026

Bid Number	Name	Closing Date
2025-RFP-247	Niagara Homelessness Service System – Geneva Supportive Housing	April 16, 2026
2025-T-222	Park Road Reservoir Generator Replacement	April 21, 2026
2026-RFP-23	RR16 Sodom Road - Lyon's Creek Rd to Willick Rd - Road Reconstruction	April 22, 2026
2025-T-243	Landfill Manhole Safety Gratings	April 27, 2026

March 4, 2026

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Government of Ontario
Delivered via email: minister.mah@ontario.ca
CC: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff to Minister Flack
Niagara Regional Councillors

Re: Regional Governance in Niagara

Dear Minister Flack,

Following my earlier correspondence on options for improving governance in the Niagara Region, I received considerable feedback from regional councillors, local councils and residents about both the process and the substance of that discussion.

While I heard criticism with the initial lack of advance consultation, it was widely acknowledged that the current structure of 126 municipally elected officials across 12 municipalities and 31 members at Regional Council is not as lean, efficient or affordable as it should be.

In addition to many phone calls, emails, meetings, and letters (including the letter received today from mayors of the lower-tier municipalities), I also held a special regional meeting on February 26th. Throughout this process I heard from the public, regional councillors and mayors. They:

- Agreed that we must reduce duplication and improve coordination and shared services, rather than defend the status quo.
- Expressed support for reducing the overall number of elected officials at both tiers.
- Raised weighted voting at the regional table as a fair way to reflect population differences while preserving a voice for every municipality.

I have also heard from several major private-sector employers, representing more than 12,000 employees across Niagara, who have written in support of streamlined, more decisive local governance.

In light of these discussions and consultations, I propose the following made-in-Niagara option, effective at the start of the next municipal term in fall 2026:

1. Regional Council composition

That Regional Council be composed of the 12 municipal mayors plus a Regional Chair, directly addressing concerns that the current body is too large to operate efficiently while maintaining a clear voice for every municipality.

2. Weighted voting based on population

That each mayor's vote at Regional Council be weighted according to population in increments of 15,000 residents (e.g., a municipality of 100,000 residents would have six votes; a municipality of 6,000 residents would have one vote), reflecting both representation by population and municipal diversity.

3. Rationalized local council sizes

That, beginning in the same term:

- St. Catharines will have 12 municipal councillors plus the mayor,
- Niagara Falls will have 8 municipal councillors plus the mayor;
- Welland, Niagara-on-Lake, Thorold, Pelham, West Lincoln, Grimsby, Lincoln, Port Colborne Fort Erie will each have 6 municipal councillors plus the mayor,
- Wainfleet will have 4 municipal councillors plus the mayor.

This delivers a clear and consistent reduction in council size across Niagara.

4. Mandated exploration of shared services and efficiencies

That you consider assigning a commissioner, or similar, after the municipal election to explore shared services and other efficiency measures, building on the many ideas raised by councillors and mayors.

This package reflects what we have heard: Niagara needs meaningful governance reform, smaller and more effective councils, and a more efficient regional decision-making table, while avoiding the disruption and risk of full amalgamation at this time. It preserves local identities and accountability, reduces the number of elected officials, and creates a Regional Council structure better able to respond to Niagara's fiscal and infrastructure challenges.

I believe this option strikes a pragmatic balance between fiscal responsibility, democratic representation and local autonomy, and will command broader support across Niagara than any immediate move to full amalgamation.

You will find that this recommendation, representing 74% of the population, is also supported by the majority of the region's mayors including:

- Mayor Siscoe of St. Catharines, pop. 136,803
- Mayor Diodati of Niagara Falls, pop. 94,415
- Mayor Campion, Welland pop. 55,750
- Mayor Easton of Lincoln, pop. 25,719
- Mayor Junkin, Pelham, pop. 18,192
- Lord Mayor Zalepa, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 19,088
- Mayor Grant, Wainfleet, pop. 6,887

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this advice to the Minister.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Bob Gale
Regional Councillor
Niagara Region



March 4, 2026

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

RE: Joint Letter from the Lower-Tier Municipalities of Niagara Region

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford,

We, the Mayors of Thorold, West Lincoln, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Grimsby, Pelham, Wainfleet and the Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake, write with a unified voice to present our agenda for modernizing governance in Niagara. We are taking decisive action to address the number of politicians, strengthen efficiency, and eliminate duplication to enable economic growth and long-term sustainability for our municipalities and the taxpayers we serve.

We have heard the Province's concerns clearly, and we are acting on them. We share the goal of building a governance model that is streamlined, transparent to the public, and results-driven, and are committed to implementing practical, evidence-based reforms that align with provincial priorities while maintaining strong, responsive local representation and preserving the integrity of our communities.

This is Niagara stepping up – not standing in the way.

At Niagara Regional Council on February 26, 2026, an overwhelming majority of Niagara's mayors and elected representatives passed a motion directing a comprehensive governance and service delivery review be initiated. Niagara is positioning itself as a provincial leader in responsible municipal reform – and we are moving forward with purpose. The review will include focus on the following priority areas, with a firm commitment to act where a clear fiscal business case supports doing so:

- Establishing one or more Water and Wastewater Public Corporation(s) under the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025*.
- Subject to a financial review, reforming local and regional services to drive savings and deliver better value for every tax dollar – such as transitioning the Regional road network and remaining services such as Social Services, Public Health and EMS to locally-governed Public Service Boards.

- Reducing the number of politicians by streamlining councils to reflect the needs and scale of each community.

These reforms reflect what our residents have told us directly: they want governance that is efficient, affordable, locally accountable, and reflective of the unique character of Niagara's small and rural communities. We are delivering on that mandate.

We are committed to a made-in-Niagara local and regional governance reform that will be reflected in the 2026 municipal election, as well as the ongoing support for the governance and service delivery review passed by Regional Council in February 2026.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss this further and to outline how Niagara's municipalities can work collaboratively with the Province to advance these reforms. We are confident that, together, we can deliver a governance model that reflects shared priorities and achieves meaningful, lasting results for the people of Ontario.

Respectfully,

The Mayors of Fort Erie, Grimsby, Port Colborne, West Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet, and the Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Wayne Redekop

Signed by:

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Mayor
Town of Fort Erie

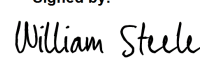
Jeff Jordan

Signed by:

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Mayor
Town of Grimsby

Bill Steele

Signed by:

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Mayor
City of Port Colborne

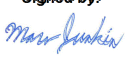
Cheryl Ganann

Signed by:

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Mayor
Township of West Lincoln

Marvin Junkin

Signed by:

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Mayor
Town of Pelham

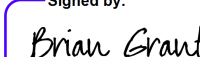
Terry Ugulini

Signed by:

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Mayor
City of Thorold

Brian Grant

Signed by:

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Mayor
Township of Wainfleet

Gary Zalepa

Signed by:

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Lord Mayor
Town of
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Enclosure: Niagara Region Committee of the Whole Meeting Motion – February 26, 2026

cc: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West
Jeff Burch, MPP – Niagara Centre
Wayne Gates, MPP – Niagara Falls
Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens, MPP – St. Catharines
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bob Gale, Regional Chair
Regional Councillors c/o Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Niagara Region – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 26, 2026

MOTION REGARDING GOVERNANCE REVIEW

That Correspondence Item COTW-C 1-2026, being correspondence from Regional Chair Gale respecting Municipal Governance Reform **BE RECEIVED**; and

Whereas Regional Chair Gale has confirmed publicly that he has not engaged in any discussion with or received any directive from the Premier of Ontario or the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding a governance review in Niagara or potential municipal amalgamations;

Whereas there has been no data, business case or specific information presented that would confirm any anticipated cost savings, efficiencies, enhanced services, or improved outcomes for the residents of Niagara as a result of any proposed governance changes;

Whereas significant decisions on local governance that will have a multi-generational impact and should be informed by comprehensive public consultation with the Niagara communities;

Whereas Premier Doug Ford has publicly reiterated on February 25, 2026 that “if it’s going to go [governance changes], then it has to be from Niagara by Niagara. It has to have approvals from the majority of mayors, has to have approval for majority of the elected officials.”, and further that, “And hopefully 70- 80% of the population agree.”, which implies the necessity for public consultation and support on any proposed governance changes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That a governance review of Niagara **BE INITIATED** to address areas of duplication and improve service efficiency based on data, a business case with financial analysis and public consultation, including local area municipalities, commencing this term of Council;
2. That Regional Council **DIRECTS** Regional Chair Gale to refrain from any further action and utilization of any further Regional resources or staff time, with the exception of the above, in connection with a review of Regional governance or municipal amalgamation; and
3. That this resolution and amendment **BE FORWARDED** to the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.



CWCD 2026-44
Office of the Mayor
Jeff Jordan
Mayor
905-979-0662
Email: jjordan@grimsby.ca

March 5, 2026

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

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

RE: Regional Governance Review

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

I am writing in response to the recent correspondence from Regional Chair Bob Gale requesting feedback about municipal restructuring within Niagara Region. This letter is intended to be read alongside the joint letter sent by eight Mayors, representing two-thirds of the Niagara Region municipalities.

I understand and share the Province's commitment to strengthening efficiency, accountability, and value for taxpayers. We remain dedicated to working collaboratively with our municipal partners and to advancing a governance model that is transparent, evidence-based, and supported in sound data.

Small towns matter.

The Town of Grimsby opposes any forced amalgamation undertaken without proper consultation with all local municipalities and their residents. In Niagara, it is essential we preserve our unique character and empower small towns to continue serving their communities effectively. There is a need to maintain local responsiveness, particularly in a rapidly growing community like Grimsby. To that end, I am supportive of the following actions:

Limit local municipal councils

This measure would reduce the overall number of elected officials across Niagara, streamline decision-making, and lower governance-related costs while preserving strong local accountability.

Initiate an immediate and comprehensive review of Regional service delivery

The review will examine water and wastewater, transportation infrastructure, planning and development, and general government administration. It will include financial

analysis, efficiency assessment, and cost-saving opportunities. This work will leverage findings from the current governance and service delivery review underway in Peel Region and other relevant municipal restructuring experiences.

Undertake a broader review of local governance models once the foundational steps are complete

This phased approach ensures that any future reforms are informed, strategic, and grounded in demonstrated outcomes.

Subject to the Province's approval and necessary legislative amendments, we are prepared to proceed and commit to providing progress and preliminary findings, including an implementation roadmap for any recommended changes.

Grimsby's Strong Position: A growing and fiscally responsible Town

Lastly, I want to emphasize that Grimsby has a strong and healthy financial track record that demonstrates the ability to stand confidently on our own. Through prudent fiscal management, responsible long-term planning, and a continued commitment to affordability, we have positioned ourselves as a financially stable and well-governed municipality. Our record reflects careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars and reinforces that Grimsby is capable of shaping its own future from a position of strength. Each year, Grimsby taxpayers send \$58.27 million to the Region (including funding for police services). Through service delivery agreements and municipal corporation boards, the amount contributed could be kept within the municipality. Grimsby can significantly expand service delivery and improve efficiencies if the Town is to become an independent single-tier municipality.

Key Statistics about Grimsby:

- One of the fastest growing municipalities in Niagara Region
- Town growth rate is greater than provincial and national rates
- 4.5 staff per 1000 residents (130 full-time employees)
- \$58.27M transferred to the Region annually (including police), paid by Grimsby taxpayers
- Very limited debt of \$297.70 per capita
- Replacement value of infrastructure assets in Grimsby is \$1.2B
- Replacement value of building and facility assets is \$130M
- #37 on the Globe and Mail's list of the Top 100 Most Liveable Community in Canada

We look forward to working collaboratively with the Province to advance a more efficient, accountable, and sustainable governance model for Niagara.

Thank you,



Mayor Jeff Jordan

CC: Minister Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West
Bob Gale, Chair Niagara Regional Council
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Town of Grimsby Council
Sarah Kim, CAO, Town of Grimsby



PORT COLBORNE

• MAYOR'S OFFICE •

CWCD 2026-45

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne ON L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.228.8099 F 905.834.5746
E william.steele@portcolborne.ca

March 5, 2026

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

Re: The Future of Municipal Governance in Niagara

The Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

As Mayor of the City of Port Colborne, I am writing in response to the recent discussion regarding municipal governance reform in Niagara. Port Colborne does not support amalgamation. Period.

We are a strong and independent community with unique marine heritage and real momentum. Forced amalgamation is neither necessary nor beneficial to our continued success. Past restructuring has not produced positive outcomes for Port Colborne, particularly in areas such as healthcare and transit, and decades of research show that municipal amalgamation fails to produce cost savings while also reducing local responsiveness and accountability.

That said, we recognize that there are legitimate regional challenges that deserve serious review. Pressures related to infrastructure funding, water and wastewater costs, and regional roads are concerning and require innovative solutions. A thoughtful governance review, focused on coordination, efficiency, and value for taxpayers, is both appropriate and necessary.

For that reason, we support the governance review approved by Niagara Regional Council on February 26 as a responsible path forward grounded in analysis rather than assumption.

While Regional Council has indicated that the Chair's work on this matter should not proceed further at this time, it remains my responsibility as Mayor to ensure that

Port Colborne's voice is heard and our community's perspective is clearly represented in this discussion.

Port Colborne has built significant momentum over the past two years, demonstrating strong leadership and measurable results, including:

- Securing over \$2 billion in new investment and job creation, strengthening our marine, industrial, and employment lands.
- Advancing provincial housing priorities through accelerated approvals and a strong development pipeline.
- Expanding licensed childcare spaces to better support working families and population growth.
- Taking proactive, evidence-based steps to improve healthcare access and outcomes within our community.
- Using Community Improvement Plans to strategically reduce development charges and encourage investment.
- Partnering with the Province to establish a Municipal Services Corporation for water and wastewater servicing on the East Side Employment Lands which, if expanded under the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025*, would create a path to stabilize and lower rates for Port Colborne residents.

This momentum is underpinned by strong financial management. Port Colborne operates under a disciplined and forward-looking financial plan that prioritizes sustainable investment to grow the city. Our financial position has been assessed as low risk by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing under its Financial Health Indicators framework. As our community and economy continue to grow, we have been intentional about balancing expansion with fiscal responsibility. In partnership with the provincial and federal governments, we have invested heavily in infrastructure and have a funded asset management plan that addresses our infrastructure needs. We are confident in our ability to deliver services efficiently and responsibly, backed by strong asset management and direct accountability to our residents.

If the objective is to reduce bureaucracy and duplication in Niagara's governance system, we believe there are more targeted solutions available than full-scale amalgamation. Port Colborne is prepared to assume greater responsibility for local services and ready to explore modernized governance models that improve efficiency without destabilizing communities. We are aligned with the following recommendations put forward by the eight mayors in their joint letter released on March 4:

- Establishing one or more municipally-owned Water and Wastewater Public Corporation(s) under the *Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025*.
- Subject to a financial review, reforming local and regional services to drive savings and deliver better value for every tax dollar – such as transitioning the regional road network and remaining services such as Social Services, Public Health, and EMS, to locally-governed Public Service Boards.
- Reducing the number of politicians by streamlining councils to reflect the needs and scale of each community.

These are practical, modern governance tools that deserve full evaluation before pursuing structural amalgamation.

Simply put, decisions of this magnitude require careful review and a clear understanding of the impacts on our communities. Our residents deserve a process grounded in evidence, supported by a strong business case, and informed by meaningful consultation.

Port Colborne is committed to working constructively with our regional and provincial partners through that process. At the same time, we will continue to advocate for solutions that strengthen Niagara while protecting the progress our community has worked hard to achieve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion about Niagara's future and look forward to working constructively with Regional Council and the Province as these issues are considered.

Sincerely,



Mayor William Steele
City of Port Colborne

cc: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP – Niagara West
Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bob Gale, Regional Chair
Regional Councillors c/o the Regional Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

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March 11, 2026

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

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Doug Ford and Honourable Rob Flack:

Re: Council Composition and Ward Boundaries in the City of Port Colborne

In addition to the letter sent by the City's Mayor on March 5, 2026, please be advised that, at its meeting on March 10, 2026 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne passed the following motion:

Whereas the provincial government has expressed a desire to reduce the number of municipal councillors in the Niagara Region; and

Whereas the majority of Mayors signed a joint letter stating a commitment to building a governance model that is streamlined and transparent to the public; and

Whereas the timeline for Council to enact a by-law regarding ward structures, in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, has passed for the 2026 municipal election;

Now therefore, be it resolved:

That Council endorse a three (3) ward structure and a Council composition of six (6) Councillors and one (1) Mayor for the City of Port Colborne, as outlined in [Final Option 2 in Appendix A of Report 2025-137, Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review – Final Report](#); and

...2

March 11, 2026

That the City Clerk be directed to confirm with the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that without provincial intervention, the above changes cannot take place until the 2030 election, and request that these changes be implemented for the 2026 election.

We respectfully request the Province's support/authorization to reduce the number of elected officials in Port Colborne from nine to seven and to implement a new three-ward structure prior to the 2026 municipal election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Madden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlotte Madden
City Clerk



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3

905-563-2799

March 12, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

Attention: Local Area Municipalities

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Support for Regional Motion regarding Governance Review

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on March 9, 2026, passed the following resolution:

Resolution Number: RC-2026-25

Moved by: Councillor Adam Russell; Seconded by: Councillor Tony Brunet

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council supports a thorough and transparent review of governance in the Niagara Region and its twelve (12) local area municipalities and the Town of Lincoln Council is willing to participate in the review, should it proceed;

AND WHEREAS participation in a governance review does not imply support for any specific restructuring model, but reflects Council's commitment to informed dialogue and due diligence;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council wants to ensure that any proposed changes to governance are supported by clear objectives, evidence-based analysis, and a transparent assessment of potential financial and service impacts to residents;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln respectfully requests that consideration be given to having any costs, incurred by the Region and the twelve (12) local area municipalities, associated with the review and implementation of potential governance changes be supported by the Province; including but not limited to costs related to the review process, employee transition costs, asset and debt management, and any infrastructure project shortfalls resulting from future changes.

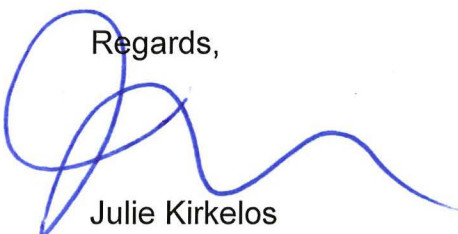
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town of Lincoln Council is willing to participate in the review, should it proceed.
2. That staff communicate Council's position in a manner that accurately reflects the Town's support for a review process and its commitment to fiscal responsibility.
3. That the Town of Lincoln requests the Province set aside funding to cover the costs outlined above, in order to reduce the financial impact of any governance changes on our communities.
4. Requests that a copy of this motion be circulated to all twelve (12) local area municipalities in Niagara, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Niagara Regional Chair, all Niagara-area Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Premier of Ontario.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/lc

c.c. Local Area Municipalities
Region of Niagara
Niagara Regional Chair
Niagara Area MPPs
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Premier of Ontario

InfoBreak

alPHA's members' portal



Mar-Apr 2026



Key Highlights

- Thank you for your strong participation at the February Winter Symposium—your engagement keeps alPHA connected to what matters most across Ontario.
- Planning is underway for our 2026 AGM & Conference (in-person, June 8–10, 2026) at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown on the Harbourfront.
- We are also preparing for the AMO Conference in August as an important opportunity to influence municipal and provincial leaders.
- Spring is provincial budget season; alPHA Staff are monitoring developments closely and will keep members updated.
- We expect to hear next steps soon on the provincial public health funding review.

Thank you: Winter Symposium (February 11–13)

Thank you to everyone who participated in February's Winter Symposium. The strong turnout and thoughtful questions reinforced the value of coming together to hear the latest updates on major issues affecting local public health.

I also want to recognize alPHA Staff, speakers, and partners for the quality of the program and the practical insights shared. Your contributions help ensure members have timely information to support local planning, decision-making, and actions.

Looking ahead: 2026 alPHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Conference (June 8–10, 2026, Toronto)

Preparations are already underway for our annual in-person AGM & Conference this June at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown, located along the Harbourfront. Registration for the event will launch in mid-April.

This conference is a key opportunity to strengthen relationships across the sector, learn from peers and partners and advance a shared narrative about the measurable value of local public health in Ontario. More program and registration details will be shared as these are finalized.

Next advocacy window: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference (August 2026)

AMO is planning its conference in August, which is another important opportunity for alPHA to engage municipal and provincial leaders. These conversations remain essential to reinforcing that local public health is not only an essential part of the health system, but also a key contributor to community well-being and economic resilience in all 444 municipalities across Ontario.

Provincial budget season: Monitoring and Member updates

Spring budget deliberations are a critical decision window. alPHA Staff will monitor budget announcements and related policy signals closely and will keep the Membership informed of relevant updates and implications for local public health.

Strategic focus: Demonstrating measurable impact

Strategically, alPHA continues to focus on demonstrating public health's measurable impacts on population health—impacts that also support Ontario's economic strength, particularly in a period of economic uncertainty and increasing risk. This means continuing to communicate in the language the government consistently looks for: outcomes and performance; return on investment and avoided costs; and practical examples of collaboration that improve impact and efficiency.

Public health funding review: Expected engagement

On the public health funding review, we expect to hear more shortly. The Ministry has indicated planned engagement with local public health agencies this year on: public health sustainability, oversight, and performance.

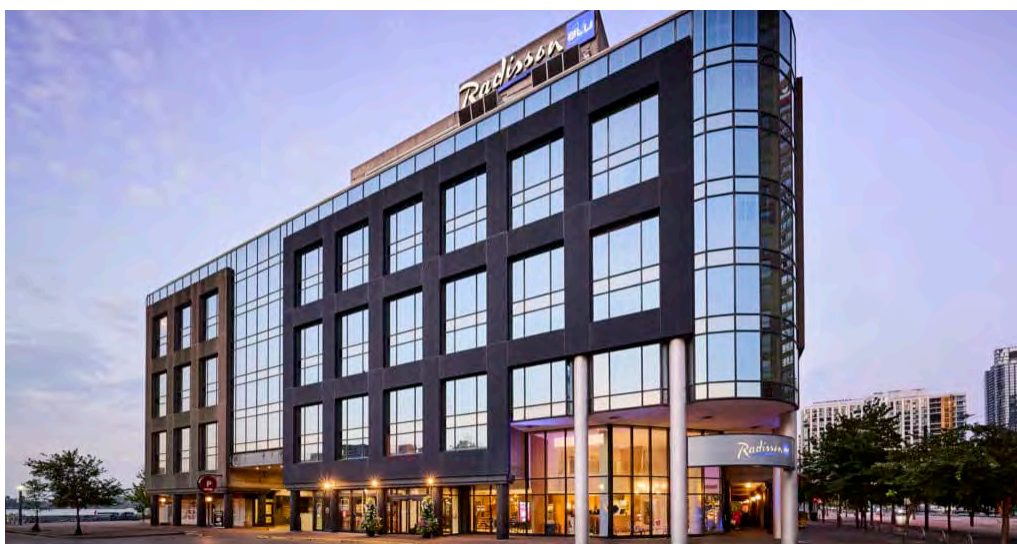
Thank you

Thank you for your continued leadership and for the work you and your teams deliver every day for communities across Ontario. It is because of your efforts that alPHA can credibly demonstrate the essential role of local public health in protecting health and supporting long-term economic resiliency.

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang

Chair, alPHA Board of Directors

Hold the date: 2026 aLPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference



Don't forget to save the date for the aLPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference, taking place in-person at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown, from June 8–10.

Our room block at the Radisson Blu—and two extensions—has officially sold out. We have secured additional rooms at the Radisson Blu at a higher rate. While above the original conference rate, these remain substantially more affordable than the hotel's standard room price. aLPHa has also secured a room block at the Union Hotel, which is priced similarly to the original room block at Radisson Blu. Booking is simple. Please see the email from January 15 for more information. We strongly encourage you to book your accommodations as soon as possible as hotel rooms in Toronto are expected to be limited during the time of the conference. Lastly, registration for the conference will commence at the usual time (this spring).

In the meantime, here is an overview of the timeline for events:

- **June 8: Mobile Workshop 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT**
- **Opening Reception 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. EDT**
- **June 9: AGM & Conference 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT**
- **June 10: BOH Section & COMOH Section Meetings 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. EDT**



Thank you

2026 alPHA AGM and Conference sponsors!

alPHA would like to thank Northwestern Health Unit for co-hosting the 2026 AGM and Conference. We are pleased to announce there is already strong interest from previous sponsors. Additional sponsors are welcome. Please contact Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services, for more information. Our current sponsors include:

This event is co-hosted by alPHA and Northwestern Health Unit



Platinum level sponsors:



Bronze level sponsor:



Attention COMOH Section Members: 50th Anniversary of PHPMR in Canada!



The Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the University of Toronto is celebrating 50 years of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in Canada. In collaboration with Public Health Physicians of Canada (PHPC) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), the University of Toronto will host a virtual series of inspiring and educational events on the themes of Hope (Thurs. May 21, 2–4 p.m.), Health (Thurs. May 28, 2–4 p.m.), and Happiness (Thurs. June 4, 2–4 p.m.). Further information, including how to submit presentations, can be found [here](#).

In addition, on Wednesday, June 10, from 5–9 p.m. in Toronto, there will be an in-person graduation and celebration. Join colleagues, alumni, and partners for an evening of reflection, connection, and inspiration, featuring the program graduation, opportunities to reconnect, and a provocative panel discussion. Stay tuned for details.

Please note: this event will take place following the conclusion of the aLPHa Annual General Meeting and Conference, which will be held at the Radisson Blu Toronto Downtown from June 8–10. If you require accommodations, aLPHa is pleased to advise that the room block has been extended to include the night of June 10.

Recap of the 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium



Thank you to all the alPHA Members who attended, spoke at and/or moderated this year's Winter Symposium! We had a strong turnout, and we were glad so many of you could join us. alPHA would also like to thank Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, alPHA Chair, for chairing the event.

Thank you to the alPHA staff, Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Melanie Dziengo, Communications Coordinator, Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services, and Gordon Fleming, Manager, Public Health Issues, for all of their work to make the Symposium, workshops, Section meetings, and Board meeting a success.

alPHA would like to acknowledge and thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being the co-host for the alPHA Winter Symposium. Their support made these events possible. A huge shoutout goes to Obadiah George from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Andy Morrisson from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event and technical support. It would not have been possible without them!

Presentations from this year's Winter Symposium are now available. Please note, you will need to log in to the Members' side of the website to view the presentations. You can do so [here](#).

Lastly, we would like to announce the winner of the in-person gift card, Dr. Joanna Oda. The after-event survey winner is Ryan Janssen. Congratulations!



Thank you, Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants!



Thank you to all of the Executive Assistants/Administrative Assistants who took part in the ALPHA 2026 Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Winter Workshop. It was a success and it's all thanks to your enthusiastic participation!

The virtual workshop, which was led by Christy Bloemendal from Leaders for Leaders, helped attendees reframe sustainability away from “doing less” and towards making intentional choices over time—helping them protect their energy, set boundaries, and continue making a difference without burning out.

ALPHA would like to thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being this year's workshop co-host. A shoutout also goes to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their event support.

Thank you to all those attendees who completed their after-event surveys. The winner of the gift card is Manon Tessier. Congratulations!

ALPHA 2026 Boards of Health (BOH) Section Election Meeting



BOH Section Member Representatives who are in good standing are invited to attend a meeting via Zoom on May 5, 2026, at 2 p.m. EDT for the sole purpose of electing Boards of Health Regional Representatives to the ALPHA Board of Directors.

The package for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was recently sent out to the Members and the information in it regarding the BOH Section nominations can be found [here](#).

BOH Section Members attending the meeting are entitled to vote for all Regional Representatives, not just those from their own region. All BOH Section Members who wish to vote must be in attendance at the May 5 meeting. A form has been sent to the executive and administrative assistants who serve as the ALPHA contact to fill out the registration form for all BOH Section attendees.

Please note, only one submission form per public health unit is allowed.

Middlesex-London Health Unit Strategic Plan 2026-2030



The Middlesex-London Health Unit has launched a new, five-year strategic plan. The plan is designed to address the public health needs of a community that has changed significantly over the past decade due to a global pandemic, population growth, and increasingly complex social and natural environments.

The plan, which will guide the agency's work from 2026 until 2030, introduces new organizational values, a new vision statement, "Healthy People. Thriving Community," and three strategic priorities: Serve Our Community, Support Our People, and Strengthen Our Performance." It outlines goals such as strengthening organizational capacity to respond to public health threats and emergencies, advancing anti-racism and inclusion in the community and in the workplace, and adopting technological solutions to help us serve our community better.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit's 2026-30 Strategic Plan can be found on the organization's new website at www.healthunit.com/about-us/strategic-plan/.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Strategic Plan 2026-2029



The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit’s 2026–2029 Strategic Plan provides a clear roadmap to guide our shared areas of focus over the next four years. Grounded in the health unit’s mandate, it refreshes our guiding foundations and positions our organization to meet evolving public health needs while continually enhancing our work with communities.

Developed with input from employees, the Board of Health, and community partners, the plan is guided by four interconnected strategic directions: Community Engagement, Equity-Driven Action, Quality and Innovation, and a Skilled and Connected Workforce. Together, these directions shape how the organization will strengthen relationships, reduce health inequities, deliver high-quality, evidence-informed programs and services across Simcoe Muskoka, and support a resilient public health workforce.

This plan positions the health unit to maximize its impact and advance its vision of: Healthy communities. Healthy people.

Public Health Matters: A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

alPHA
Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies
January 2026

A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH'S ROLE

Protecting local public health is essential to supporting Ontario's economy. A healthy population is more productive, reduces health-care costs, and drives long-term prosperity. Through community-based strategies and strong partnerships, local public health improves health outcomes, increases efficiency, and strengthens local economies across Ontario. The positive impact of local public health in Ontario is illustrated in the examples below.

OUR ASK:

We are asking provincial and municipal decision makers to sustain and strengthen funding for Ontario's local public health system so that communities stay healthy, services remain stable, and the economy stays strong.

PREVENTING DISEASE: IMMUNIZATION

Immunization keeps children healthy and parents in the workforce — while reducing costly hospital care.

- 25% fewer hospitalizations among children aged 0–4 during the 2024–25 RSV season after expanded infant immunization
- 186,000+ Hepatitis B doses and 233,000+ HPV doses delivered to students in 2024
- Childhood immunization reduces ER visits, hospital stays, and long-term health costs

PROTECTING THE POPULATION: OUTBREAK PREVENTION & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Public health detects and contains outbreaks early, protecting workplaces, care settings, and essential services.

- 5,000+ respiratory outbreak responses in congregate settings (2024–25)
- 1,800+ follow-ups by public health units in response to Infection Prevention and Control complaints in 2024
- Emergency response support for First Nations communities during floods and wildfires in 2025

PROTECTING THE POPULATION: INSPECTIONS

Public health inspections prevent illness by enforcing safety standards in everyday settings.

- 42,000+ food premises inspected in 2024
- 6,800+ pools and spas inspected in 2024
- 8,600+ personal service settings inspected in 2024

PROTECTING THE POPULATION: INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations stop health threats before they spread, protecting communities and the health system.

- 14,000+ food safety investigations in 2024
- 106,000+ disease notifications managed in 2024
- 28,000+ rabies exposures investigations in 2024

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

Preventive public health programs reduce chronic disease and long-term health-care costs.

- 556,000+ students screened for dental needs in 2024
- 526,000+ children and youth supported through Healthy Smiles Ontario as of March 2025
- 109,700+ seniors enrolled in the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program as of March 2025
- 99,450+ postpartum Healthy Babies Healthy Children screens completed April 2024–March 2025



Be the unified voice and a trusted advisor on public health



Advance the work of local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations



Support the sustainability of Ontario's local public health system



Deliver member services to local public health leaders

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA)
Convening the Leadership of Local Public Health Agencies



www.alphaweb.org

alPHA is pleased with the positive response from key stakeholders to the latest *Public Health Matters* infographic (a screenshot is above). This is the fifth in the series and focuses on the connection between healthy communities and a strong economy. The infographics are designed to help decision-makers understand the role, value, and impact of local public health in a clear and accessible way. These materials are intended to support conversations with municipal and provincial decision-makers and alPHA Members are encouraged to use these resources. To read more, click [here](#).

Canadian Health Measures Survey is now underway in Scarborough-North



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Statistics Canada is currently conducting the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) in Scarborough-North. The data from this survey are used by researchers to further understand the relationship between disease risk factors and risk conditions such as obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and more. It also sheds light on illnesses and enables health professionals to be better prepared for public health challenges.

The CHMS has been an ongoing partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada since 2007. From April 2025 to April 2027, they will visit 16 sites across the provinces.

Confidentiality and security are their top priorities. Statistics Canada takes the privacy of Canadians very seriously. All personal information they collect is strictly protected. All information is anonymized; it's never possible to connect data that is made public to any person or household.

Some facts about their operations in Scarborough-North:

- Approximately 850 households have been selected to participate.
- Survey participation is voluntary.
- The temporary examination centre (TEC) is located in the parking lot of the Frank McKechnie Community Centre (310 Bristol Road East).
 - o Check out their [video](#) for a virtual tour of the facility.
- The TEC will be in operation at this location from March 11 to April 15, 2026.
- Those who complete both the in-person interview and visit to the TEC will be reimbursed \$150 for the costs of transportation or childcare-related expenses. Participants will receive a report detailing the results of specific physical and laboratory tests, which they can access online through the new MyResults Portal or by mail.



Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) update

OAPHD has released its finalized Strategic Plan 2026–2030, outlining a clear, evidence informed roadmap to strengthen public health dentistry during a period of significant system transformation. The plan positions OAPHD as **a provincial standard setter, trusted partner, and policy voice**, with a strong focus on integrating oral health into the broader health and social system.

It emphasizes system integration, practice standards, prevention, and equity, responding directly to CDCP implementation, workforce pressures, data and practice consistency, and widening oral health inequities, while supporting Medical Officers of Health and public health units to advance prevention focused, equitable oral health across Ontario.



OAPHD Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Strengthening Public Health Dentistry in Ontario

System Integration & Policy Influence	Practice Standards & Quality Improvement	Prevention & Upstream Action
• Coordinated advocacy • Oral health leadership • Partner relationships	• Shared guidelines • Core indicators • Workforce capacity	• School-based prevention • Equity focus • OPHS alignment

Why this matters for MOHs / PHUs

Provides a province-wide roadmap to strengthen prevention and equity, advance consistent practice standards and indicators, and support system integration—including during CDCP implementation and ongoing workforce pressures.

Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) | Strategic Plan 2026–2030

alPHA Correspondence

Through policy analysis, 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. A complete online library of submissions is available [here](#). These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

- [alPHA Submission - 2026 Ontario Budget](#) - Jan. 15, 2026



Board of Health Shared Resources

A resource page is available on alPHA's website for Board of Health members to facilitate the sharing of and access to information, orientation materials, best practices, case studies, by-laws, Resolutions, and other resources. In particular, alPHA is seeking resources to share regarding the province's *Strengthening Public Health Initiative*, including but not limited to, voluntary mergers and the need for long-term funding for local public health. If you have a best practice, by-law or any other resource that you would like to make available via the newsletter and/or the website, please send a file or a link with a brief description to gordon@alphaweb.org and for posting in the appropriate library.

Resources available on the alPHA website include:

- Orientation Manual for Boards of Health (Revised Jan. 2024)
- Review of Board of Health Liability, 2018, (PowerPoint presentation, Feb. 24, 2023)
- Legal Matters: Updates for Boards of Health (Video, June 8, 2021)
- Obligations of a Board of Health under the Municipal Act, 2001 (Revised 2021)
- Governance Toolkit (Revised 2022)
- Risk Management for Health Units
- Healthy Rural Communities Toolkit
- The Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction
- The Ontario Public Health Standards
- Public Appointee Role and Governance Overview (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)
- Ontario Boards of Health by Region
- List of Units sorted by Municipality
- List of Municipalities sorted by Health Unit
- Map: Boards of Health Types NCCHP Report: Profile of Ontario's Public Health System (2021)
- The Municipal Role of Public Health (2022 U of T Report)
- Boards of Health and Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act
- Core Competencies for Public Health in Canada
- BOH Training Courses





OPHC 2026: Register Now

Registration is now open for TOPHC 2026, taking place on March 25, 2026. This year's event is a free, half-day virtual convention designed to bring together public health leaders and professionals from across Ontario and beyond. With expert panels, dynamic discussions, and networking opportunities, TOPHC 2026 will be a unique opportunity to stay ahead of emerging trends, connect with colleagues, and explore innovative solutions in public health.

[Register now](#) and be part of the conversations shaping the future of public health. Visit their website to [explore the full program](#) and [meet this year's speakers](#).

IPAC for Health Care Workers Guide

PHO's new Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) for Health Care Workers [Resources for Trainers](#) is now available. These new resources, which complement to PHO's interactive IPAC for Health Care Workers online course released in August 2025, are intended to support trainers/facilitators in conducting face-to-face IPAC training for health care workers. These resources provide a ready-to-use package for instructor-led or group-based IPAC training and can be used across hospitals, long-term care, primary care, dental clinics, home care and other health care settings. Because these resources align with the structure and content of online course, organizations can deliver consistent, standardized IPAC training across multiple formats—whether online, in the classroom, or during workplace onboarding.

Immunization Data Tool

In January, PHO updated their [Immunization Data Tool](#), which provides comprehensive immunization program surveillance data in Ontario. This interactive tool has been updated with the most recent year's data for immunization coverage estimates for routine childhood and school-based immunizations and vaccine safety surveillance data collected from reports of Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). They have also added new information on COVID-19 immunization coverage and AEFI reports associated with COVID-19 vaccines.

Also available are updated [technical notes](#) and [user guide](#), as well as an accompanying [infographic](#) that provides a summary of AEFIs reported in Ontario following vaccines administered in 2024.



Respiratory Resources

- [Ontario Respiratory Virus Tool](#)
- [Integrated Respiratory Virus Risk Indicators for Ontario](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Surveillance in Ontario](#)

Infectious Disease Surveillance Reports

- [iGAS in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [Diseases of Public Health Significance Cases](#)
- [Hepatitis C in Ontario: Focus on 2024](#)

Recent Presentations

- [PHO Learning Exchange: Managing iGAS Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Talk About Doxy PEP STIs](#)
- [Efficiency Using AI Scribe](#)
- [Public Health Data to Support Trans and Non-binary Health](#)
- [PHO Webinar: Smoking Cessation and Concurrent Alcohol and/or Substance Use](#)
- [PHO Rounds: A Model of Collaboration: Initiatives of the Black, African, and Caribbean Community Health and Wellness Collaborative in Peel](#)
- [PHO Rounds: Improving Immunization Coverage and Processes in Ontario](#)
- [PHO Webinar: Substance Use and Gender-based Violence: Strategies and Resources](#)
- [PHO Rounds: Black Public Health: Promising Practices Series](#)

PHO Rounds: Assessing Quality Improvement Maturity Across Ontario PHUs

Continuous quality improvement (CQI) frameworks provide a potentially fruitful approach for enhancing public health practice. Ontario's public health units (PHUs) vary widely in their understanding and implementation of CQI. Building on earlier work from 2016, the research presented in this PHO Rounds supports a coordinated provincial approach by assessing PHUs' CQI maturity. The objectives were to describe the current state of CQI in Ontario PHUs using a validated, Ontario adapted Quality Improvement Maturity Tool. Twenty-five PHUs completed the modified survey. The results of the survey will be presented and discussed in terms of what this means for Ontario PHUs readiness for QI implementation.

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Intended audience: Public health professionals, MOHs/AMOHs, Public health leadership, Ministry of Health staff with interest in quality improvement. By the end of this session, participants will be able to: Describe the variation in CQI understanding and implementation across Ontario PHUs; Interpret provincial averages of CQI maturity scores, identify what the results indicate for system readiness, and reflect on your own organization's CQI practices. To learn more, click [here](#).

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

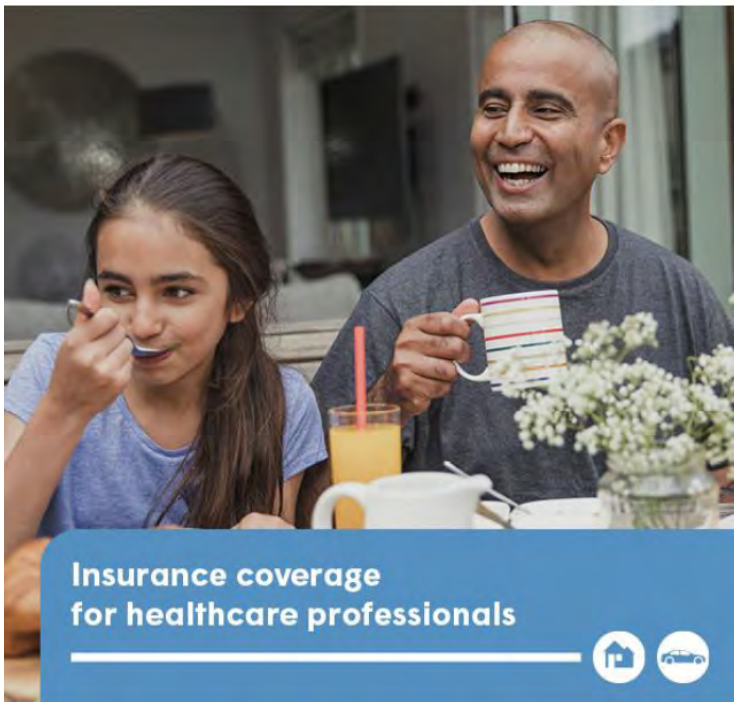
Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

- ["Immigrants' Mental Health Dilemma" with Hui Zheng \(Mar. 17\)](#)
- [Care Economies in Context Speaker Series: Immigrants' Mental Health Dilemma \(Mar. 17\)](#)
- ["What is Contemplative Science?" With Dr. Mark Miller \(Mar. 18\)](#)
- [META:PHI Virtual Conference 2026 \(Apr. 17-18\)](#)



Ontario Public Health Directory: March 2026 update

The [Ontario Public Health Directory](#) has been updated and is available on the alPHA website. Please ensure you have the latest version, which has been dated as of **March 9, 2026**. To view the file, log into the alPHA website.



Being a healthcare professional in 2026 requires care and dedication. At The Personal, we believe it's our job to support you. That's why we've partnered with the **Association of Local Public Health Agencies** to help you:

 **Save even more** with exclusive home and auto rates

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Join the 65,000+ healthcare professionals who already trust us.¹

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¹Internal statistics of The Personal: Approximate number of policyholders that belong to groups of healthcare professionals across all Canadian provinces, February 2025.

This email is being sent by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, on behalf of The Personal, located at 3 Robert Speck Pkwy, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 3Z9, 1-888-476-8737.

For more information on The Personal, please click [here](#) (English) and [here](#) for French.



NEWS

News Releases

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed [here](#).



alPHA's mailing address

Please note our mailing address is:

PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood
Toronto, ON M6C 4A7

For further information, please contact info@alphaweb.org.



Atikokan - Photo Credit

This update is a tool to keep alPHA's Members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPHA activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.



March 19, 2026

In This Issue:

- Take a look at AMO's Holding Public Meetings Handguide.
- Make Your Municipal Move campaign update.
- Proposed Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards.
- Ontario Heritage Framework Transformation: Archaeology Program changes.
- July 1 Deadline for BPS energy reporting.
- Consultation on 2026-2029 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.
- Webinar on Build Canada Homes.
- Celebrating 70 years of Ontario's Small Urban Municipalities: keynote speaker announcement.
- Supporting your Run for Municipal Office in 2026: Resources and Workshops.
- Indigenous Candidates Thinking of Running for Office.
- Better Rural Data for Better Municipal Decisions - join us April 2.
- Blog: Public-Sector Identification in the Age of AI.
- Canoe Webinar: Procurement Confessions.
- OPPI is seeking a Public Interest Representative.
- IPAC Emerging Leaders Conference.
- FCM's Board nominations are now open.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO's [Holding Public Meetings Handguide](#) addresses challenges that may arise in public meetings and engagements. This handguide offers practical tools and resources to ensure decorum, structure, and clear communication so that residents can contribute to meaningful discussions. This is one of seven guides found within [AMO's Leading with Respect Handguides](#), which all provide practical tools to help councils and staff manage conflict and foster a culture of civility.

AMO's Municipal Move Campaign has generated nearly 18 million impressions, helping to raise awareness of municipal careers in Ontario and the vital role of local government. Don't miss out -- [use our Campaign Toolkit](#) to make the most of this momentum.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Transportation is seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would set mandatory road construction standards for municipalities. [Provide feedback](#) by March 30.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is proposing changes to Ontario's Heritage Framework to streamline archaeological assessments and set criteria for evaluating Licensed Consultant Archaeologists' compliance records. [Provide feedback](#) by April 5.

Municipalities must [report annual energy use](#) and greenhouse gas emissions to the province by July 1. This helps manage costs, identify energy-saving opportunities, and reduce emissions.

Federal Matters

Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking feedback on their Sustainable Development Strategy by May 12. Provide feedback through [online questionnaire](#), by [e-mail](#), or through participating in an upcoming [webinar](#).

On April 24th, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada will host a webinar explaining Build Canada Homes' portal and investment policy framework in Ontario. Register now on [Microsoft Teams](#).

Education Opportunities

In this milestone year, the 2026 Conference program content is a reminder of why OSUM matters to your leadership. Join Opening Keynote, Althia Raj, who will set the stage on the state of provincial and federal politics. [View program outline and register now](#).

AMO is offering programs designed to support aspiring candidates and returning elected officials. Whether you are considering your first run for office, seeking re-election, representing an underrepresented community, or a youth, we have a program tailored for you. Resources range from helping you make the decision to run or run again, to building your team, crafting your message, and getting out the vote, and includes the *Lead Where You Live* guide for key steps in the process. Register for workshops and access resources [here](#).

AMO has expanded their Healthy Democracy Leadership Series. AMO is offering a series of workshops for urban Indigenous peoples thinking about running for municipal office in the October 2026 elections. These sessions will provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence around how to become a candidate and run a campaign. [Register here](#).

HEAR Initiative (Health, Economics, Adaptation in Rural Communities Initiative) is developing a new province-wide rural data platform designed to support more

informed decision-making in rural communities. Join us for an interactive information session on Thursday, April 2 at 12:00 p.m. to learn how household-level rural data can help strengthen municipal planning, funding applications, council decisions, advocacy efforts, and long-term community resilience across rural Ontario. [Register for the free session here.](#)

LAS

As identity fraud becomes more sophisticated with the use of AI tools, our FOI and Privacy Program Management program partner, Vayle, explains why public-sector verification practices must evolve. [Read the blog.](#)

Join Stéphanie and Tony from [Canoe](#) as they share some of the strangest stories they've encountered in the world of procurement. [Register here](#) for 'Procurement Confessions: The Good, The Bad, and the "Did That Really Just Happen?"' on March 25th at 10:00 AM.

Municipal Wire*

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is seeking a Public Interest Representative (PIR) to fill a [volunteer OPPI Council position](#) the governance term of June 2026 to June 2028. Experience in a field other than planning is required. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2026.

The Institute of Public Administration of Canada is hosting a professional development event focused on service delivery excellence on April 21. [Register for](#) virtual or in-person attendance.

Are you motivated by influencing and driving change on a national scale? Are you interested in defining municipal priorities? If so, submit your nomination to join FCM's Board of Directors today! The [nomination process is now open](#) for those who wish to run for FCM Board of Directors.

Careers

[Associate Director, Communications - Association of Municipalities of Ontario.](#) Closing Date: April 3, 2026.

[Policy Advisor - Regional Municipality of Durham.](#) Closing Date: March 29, 2026.

[Asset Management Analyst - City of Belleville.](#) Closing Date: April 6, 2026.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal

governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow [@AMO](#) on LinkedIn!

AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

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