



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COUNCIL WEEKLY CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTION

INDEX

Friday, January 30, 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 2026-12

Subject: Update - Recycling Box Distribution, Replacement and Broken Container Procedures Following Full Blue Box Transition

Date: January 30, 2026

To: Council

From: Lucy McGovern, Waste Diversion Program Manager

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council with updated information on recycling box distribution locations, replacement procedures and the handling of broken recycling boxes following the completion of the Blue Box program transition across all Niagara municipalities as of January 1, 2026. This memorandum updates and replaces information previously provided to Council on October 24, 2025 and is intended to support Councilors in responding to resident inquiries.

Under Ontario's Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg. 391/21), producers, represented by Circular Materials (CM), are responsible for the operation and funding of residential Blue Box collection and related services. Miller Waste Systems (MWS), on behalf of CM and its Contract Administrator, Reverse Logistics Group (RLG), is now fully responsible for recycling collection and recycling box distribution across all Niagara municipalities.

Updated Recycling Box Distribution Locations

CM, through its service providers has established the following municipal pickup locations where residents can obtain or replace their recycling boxes:

Municipality	Address	Mon – Fri Hours
NOTL	Miller Waste Systems Office - 335 Townline Rd.	8:00am – 4:00pm
West Lincoln	Township of West Lincoln - 318 Canborough St.	8:30am – 4:30pm
Fort Erie	Fort Erie Town Hall - 1 Municipal Centre	8:30am – 4:00pm
Port Colborne	Port Colborne City Hall - 66 Charlotte St.	8:30am – 4:30pm
Welland	Welland Public Works Yard – 99 Federal Rd.	7:00am – 2:45pm
Wainfleet	Wainfleet Township Hall - 31940 Highway 3	8:30am – 4:30pm
Lincoln	Township of Lincoln - 4800 S Service Rd.	8:30am – 4:30pm

A Grimsby distribution location is being confirmed, although location details and hours have not been finalized. A further update will be provided once confirmed.

Changes to Recycling Box Colours

Grey recycling boxes are no longer being provided. Residents requesting new or replacement containers will now receive two blue recycling boxes: One blue box designated for materials previously placed in the grey box and one blue box designated for traditional blue box materials.

Updated Container Request and Pick-up Process

Miller Waste Systems will provide two recycling boxes to new homeowners or renters at no charge. Additional recycling boxes can be purchased for \$15 plus HST online at <https://residential-recycling-bins.millerwaste.ca/>.

Residents requiring new or replacement recycling boxes must contact MWS by phone at 1-833-621-0726 or by email at area19@millerwaste.ca. Residents will be provided with an authorization code prior to pick up at their selected distribution location. For all pick-up locations other than the MWS office in Niagara-on-the-Lake, residents must wait a minimum of 24 hours after receiving authorization before picking up their containers.

Broken Recycling Boxes

Through discussions with MWS, Region staff have confirmed that broken recycling boxes are now being managed differently than under Niagara Region's former program.

When a resident reports a broken recycling box, MWS will arrange a large item collection of the broken recycling box on the resident's next scheduled garbage collection day. The broken box will be collected by the garbage collection contractor serving that municipality and disposed of as garbage.

This approach differs from Niagara Region's previous messaging, which advised residents that broken green bins, kitchen catchers or recycling boxes could be dropped off at Regional residential drop-off depots for bulky plastics recycling (with wheels removed from green bins) or booked as a large item for disposal.

Resident Inquiries and Escalation Process

To ensure consistent communication and service delivery:

- Residents with questions related to recycling boxes, missed collections, or general recycling inquiries are to contact MWS by phone at 1-833-621-0726 or by email at area19@millerwaste.ca.
- If the matter requires further review or remains unresolved after contact with MWS, it can be escalated to CM at 1-877-667-2626 or customerservice@circularmaterials.ca.

Next Steps

Niagara Region staff will continue to liaise with CM and its service providers to monitor accessibility, service delivery and public communications related to recycling box distribution and replacement. Additional updates will be provided to Council as required, including confirmation of the Grimsby distribution location and hours.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Lucy McGovern
Waste Diversion Program Manager

MIDDLESEX-LONDON BOARD OF HEALTH

REPORT NO. 05-26

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health
Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2026 January 22

ALCOHOL LABELLING POLICY POSITION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

- 1) Receive Report No. 05-26 re: “Alcohol Labelling Policy Position” for information;
- 2) Endorse [Appendix C](#) re: Middlesex-London Health Unit Policy Position on Alcohol Labelling;
- 3) Endorse [Appendix D](#) re: Statement from Provincial/Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health on Labelling of Alcohol Products; and
- 4) Direct the Clerk to forward Report No. 05-26 and Appendices [C](#) and [D](#) to all members of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology, copied to all Ontario Boards of Health and local Members of Parliament.

Report Highlights

- The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) was a witness at a session of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology regarding its examination of [Bill S-202, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act \(warning label on alcoholic beverages\)](#).
- The Middlesex-London Board of Health has a history of supporting public health policy measures intended to mitigate the health harms associated with alcohol, including the need for alcohol labelling.
- The Provincial/Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health have endorsed a position statement on alcohol warning labels, strongly encouraging the federal government to mandate health label requirements on alcohol containers for sale in Canada.
- It is the position of the Middlesex-London Health Unit that all alcohol manufactured or sold in Canada should have mandatory, regulated labels including health warnings, Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health, and standard drink size information.

Background

In late October, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology (SOCI) invited a representative from the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to appear as a

witness on October 29, 2025, as part of its examination of [Bill S-202, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act \(warning label on alcoholic beverages\)](#). As requested by the committee, an opening statement and briefing was submitted prior to the meeting, attached as [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#). Linda Stobo, Manager of Comprehensive Health Promotion B, represented MLHU, presenting opening remarks and speaking to questions posed by Committee members, along with Medical Health Officers from Toronto Public Health and Vancouver Coastal Health.

Previous Board of Health Support for Alcohol Labelling

At the April 20, 2023 meeting, the Board of Health moved to endorse a correspondence item in support of ‘*BILL S-254 An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)*’ from Ann-Marie Kungl, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. Bill S-254 died on the Order Paper due to Parliamentary Prorogation in January 2025. Bill S-202 was reintroduced to Senate on May 28, 2025 proposing the amendment of the *Food and Drugs Act* to regulate health warning labels on alcohol beverages.

MLHU Policy Position

All alcohol manufactured or sold in Canada should have mandatory, regulated labels including health warnings, Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health, and standard drink size information.

The MLHU Policy Position statement, attached as [Appendix C](#), situates alcohol consumption in Middlesex-London, quantifies the population health burden, and identifies the lack of public awareness regarding alcohol and its harms; health warning labels are proven to be effective at helping consumers make informed choices. The MLHU policy position aligns with the Provincial and Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health’s (PTCMOH) statement on alcohol warning labels released in December 2025, linked as [Appendix D](#).

Next Steps

At the time of drafting this report, Bill S-202 is at the end of Committee stage but has not yet passed approval for debate at third reading. If passed by Senate at third reading, the Bill will then go to the House of Commons for first, second, committee, and third readings. If passed by both chambers, the bill will receive royal assent and become law.

It is recommended that the Board of Health endorse MLHU’s Policy Position ([Appendix C](#)) and PTCMOH’s Statement ([Appendix D](#)) on alcohol warning labels. Further, it is recommended that this report and Appendices [C](#) and [D](#) be sent to all members of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology, copied to all Ontario Boards of Health and local Members of Parliament, to contribute to a unified public health voice regarding alcohol labelling.

This report was written by the Comprehensive Health Promotion B Team.



Alexander Summers, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health



Emily Williams, BScN, RN, MBA, CHE
Chief Executive Officer

This report refers to the following principle(s) set out in Policy G-490, Appendix A:

- The Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being and the Substance Use and Injury Prevention standards as outlined in the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#).
- The following goal or direction from the [Middlesex-London Health Unit's Strategic Plan](#):
 - Our public health programs are effective, grounded in evidence and equity

This topic has been reviewed to be in alignment with goals under the Middlesex-London Health Unit's [Anti-Black Racism Plan](#) and [Taking Action for Reconciliation](#), specifically recommendation "Create Supportive Environments – ensure the use of culturally-respectful terminology".

InfoBreak

alPHA's members' portal



Winter 2026



Key Highlights

- Delegation to Minister of Finance on January 14: protecting and investing in local public health to strengthen Ontario's economy.
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2026 concurrent session (January 19): Why municipal investment in local public health matters; leadership meetings with AMO and OMA.
- Save the date: alPHA Winter Symposium (online), Feb. 11–13, 2026
- Governance: A Resolutions process update at the AGM (preview at the Winter Symposium).
- Thank you for your continued leadership and impact across Ontario's 444 municipalities.

Advancing Strategic Priorities

- Delegation to Ontario's 2026 Budget Consultation (January 14, 2026)
 - I presented alPHA's case that:
 - Public health is a key driver of economic strength and resilience.
 - Local public health continues to step up amid growing and complex demands.
 - Sustained, sufficient investment protects Ontarians and reduces downstream system costs.
 - We appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, as not all stakeholders receive a delegation slot when requested.
- ROMA Conference: Making the municipal case for public health (January 18–20, 2026)
 - Concurrent session: *Public Health Matters: A Strong Economy Supported by Healthy Communities*. How investing in local public health strengthens communities and economies.
 - Date/time: Sunday, January 19, 1:15–2:30 p.m. (EST)
 - Location: Sheraton Centre Toronto

o alPHA leadership will also meet with AMO and OMA leadership while at ROMA to continue advancing joint priorities.

Winter Symposium: February 11–13, 2026 (online)

- With anticipated updates on the new *Ontario Public Health Standards* and the province's review of public health funding, this will be an important touchpoint for timely updates from provincial and system partners.
- Registration has launched.

Governance and Compliance

- Resolutions process: alPHA will bring forward required updates at the next Annual General Meeting. An overview of proposed changes will be presented at the Winter Symposium.

Thank You

On behalf of the alPHA Board and Staff, thank you for the vital work you and your teams do every day. Your leadership enables alPHA to demonstrate how essential local public health is to the health of our communities and Ontario's economic resiliency.

— Hsiu-Li Wang

Chair, alPHA Board of Directors



Register for the 2026 alPHA Winter Symposium

2026 alPHA Winter Symposium

Feb. 11-13

In case you missed it, registration for this year's Winter Symposium is now open! These events will be taking place from February 11-13 and will discuss a variety of issues of key importance to public health leaders, and you won't want to miss out. Registration is for alPHA Members only, and the cost is \$399+HST. We want to thank those who have already registered for supporting alPHA. We are pleased to see strong enthusiasm for these events.

The symposium will feature an engaging lineup of speakers and topics, including:

- *Risk Communication Essentials: Top 10 Tips for Public Health Professionals* - Ron Brecher and Trevor Smith Diggins, Risk Partners
- *Update from Public Health Ontario (PHO)* - Dr. Samir Patel, Vice President and Chief, Microbiology and Laboratory Services, PHO; Dr. JinHee Kim, Physician Lead, Environmental and Occupational Health, PHO, and Catharine Chambers, Applied Public Health Science Specialist, Communicable Disease Control, PHO
- *alPHA Update* - Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, Board of Directors, alPHA
- *On the Front Lines with the Affiliates* - Carolyn Doris, Ontario Dietitians in Public Health; Paul Sharma, Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry; Caitlyn Paget, Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario, and Shannon Robinson, Health Promotion Ontario
- *Legally Speaking: alPHA's Legal Counsel in Conversation with Members* - James LeNoury, Principal, LeNoury Law and Legal Counsel, alPHA
- *Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Update* - Karen Nesbitt, Director, Policy and Government Relations, AMO; Alicia Neufeld, Senior Manager, Policy, AMO, and Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO

alPHA would like to acknowledge and thank Region of Waterloo Public Health for being the co-host for the alPHA Winter Symposium. Their support has made these events possible. A shoutout goes to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for their generous event and technical support.

alPHA 2026 Winter Symposium and Workshops: Pre-Symposium Lineup - Back by Popular Demand!



Sabine Matheson

Sleepless in Ontario - StrategyCorp Weds., Feb. 11 - 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

With 2026 municipal elections ahead, the political environment for public health is can change quickly. Get a forward look at the policy climate and the key issues affecting agencies and boards of health—so you can prepare with confidence.



Dr. Alexander Caudarella

Actioning Community Data Across Sectors Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) Weds., Feb. 11 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn how CCSA is working with communities are shaping the response to substance use and addiction. This session features insights from the Canadian Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use, along with work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners, and innovative approaches to local data and action.



Claudia Valle

The Secret to Sustainability - Leaders for Leaders Thurs. Feb. 11 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sustainability isn't about doing less — it's about choosing what matters over time. Leave with practical strategies to protect your energy, set boundaries, and sustain your impact without burnout. Participants will learn how to rethink balance and self-care as practical and achievable.



You must be an alPHA Member to register. You will be automatically registered for the Pre-Symposium workshops when you register for the Winter Symposium.

This event is co-hosted by alPHA and Waterloo Public Health



Region of Waterloo

With generous support from:



Register for the 2026 EA/AA Winter Workshop!

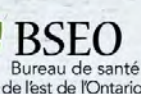
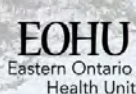
alPHA 2026 EA/AA Winter Workshop Online: February 10

In this 2-hour workshop, Christy Bloemendal from Leaders to Leaders, reframes sustainability away from “doing less” and toward making intentional choices over time — helping leaders protect their energy, set boundaries, and keep making a difference without burning out!

This event is co-hosted by alPHA and Waterloo Public Health



With generous support from:



alPHA is pleased to invite you to the alPHA 2026 Executive Assistant/Administrative Assistant Winter Workshop.

This online two-hour virtual workshop will be led by Christy Bloemendal from Leaders for Leaders. This session reframes sustainability away from “doing less” and toward making intentional choices over time—helping leaders protect their energy, set boundaries, and continue making a difference without burning out. Participants will be encouraged to rethink balance and self-care as practical, seasonal, and achievable, so they can continue to lead well without sacrificing themselves in the process.

Registration details: The cost to attend is \$149 + HST and the registration deadline: is Friday, February 6, 2026. Please note, only Executive Assistants and Administrative Assistants working at a public health unit are eligible to attend. One registration equals one participant; badge sharing is not permitted. You do not need to create an account on the alPHA website to register.

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



2026 Budget Consultations

Last month, alPHA sent an e-mail to the Membership in regards to the provincial government seeking input on the 2026 budget. There is still time for you to submit your feedback, and it can be done via a survey, written submission, or mail/e-mail. alPHA has provided a [written submission](#) and invites its Members to also do so. Details can be found below and [here](#).

1. Online survey (3 -5 mins, multiple choice, no open-ended questions).

[Take the survey](#)

2. Written submission

Submit your “Top Three” suggestions for the 2026 Budget and/or upload a document.

[Submit your proposal](#)

3. Mail / e-mail (alPHA recommends uploading written documents via the portal as well). More information is available [here](#).

In-Person Consultation

Email: MOFconsultations@ontario.ca for more information on consultations in your area.



Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference



In mid-January, many alPHA Members, particularly those from the Boards of Health Section, will be attending the ROMA Conference. It will take place January 18-20 in Toronto. Whether you're attending the conference, or are participating in a delegation, here are key alPHA resources for Members to use:

- 2026 Pre-Budget Consultations - alPHA Deputation and Submission
- alPHA Correspondence
- alPHA's Resolutions from the 2025 AGM
- Public Health Matters Infographic – #5: A Strong Economy Supported By Healthy Communities
- “What is Public Health?”

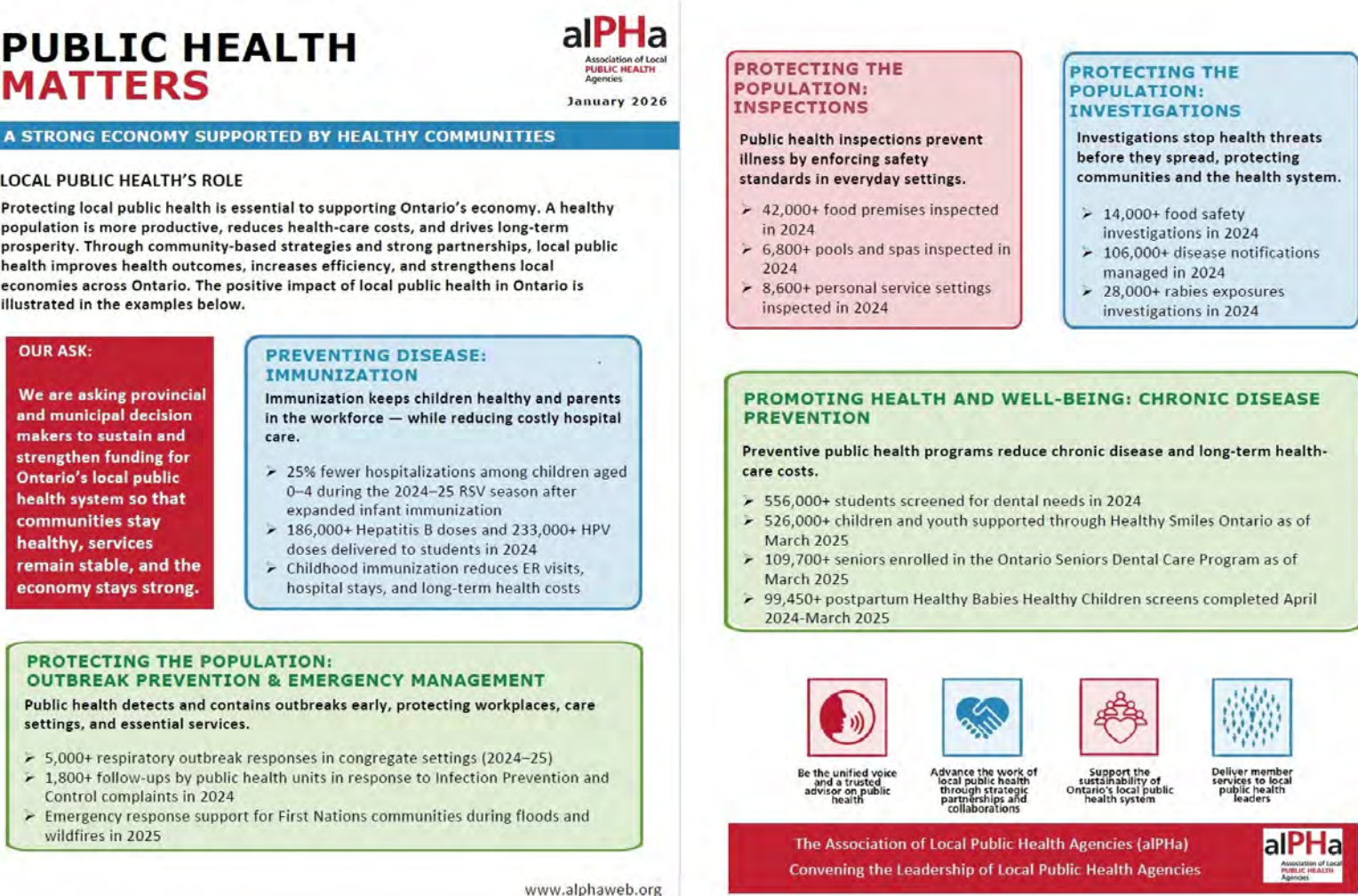
Looking for more information? Visit our Boards of Health Resources webpage for documents to help you prepare for this event.

How to prepare for delegation meetings:

Preparing for Ministerial Delegation Meetings: AMO has developed a guide to support members in requesting, preparing and participating in delegation meetings. You can access the guide here. To make the most of your delegation meetings:

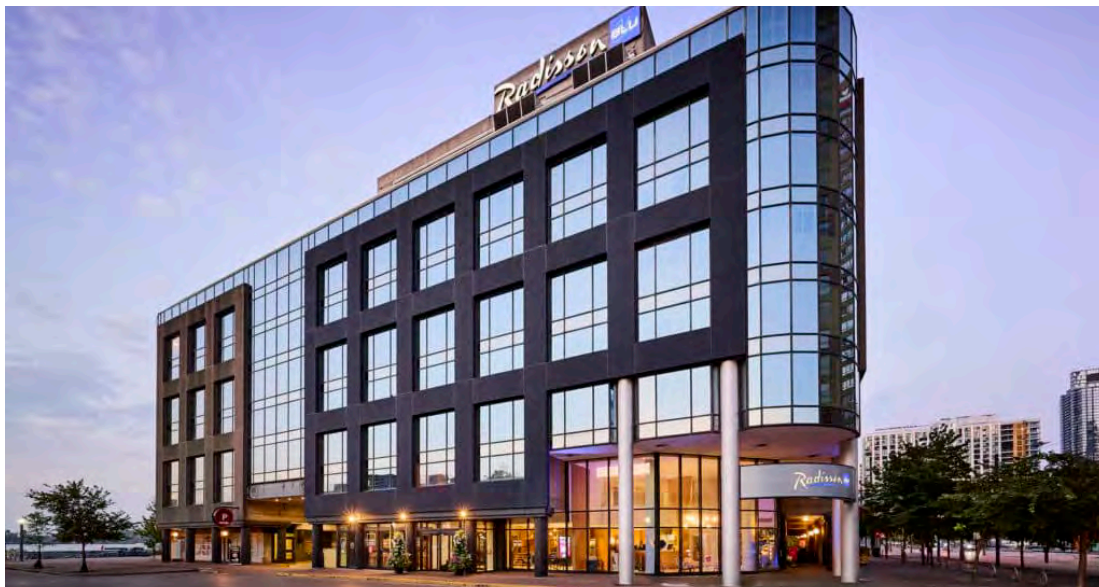
1. Have a clear objective to help keep your conversation on track
2. Share supporting materials in advance to help ministry officials develop appropriate briefing materials
3. Keep your opening pitch short and focussed so that the majority of your meeting can be spent hearing from the Minister and pressing them on answers to your concerns
4. Connect your issue to government priorities to make it easier for them to see why they should help you
5. Show any documentation from previous ministry staff conversations and be specific about where the Minister can help you to overcome a barrier.
6. Make your delegation meeting the start of a conversation and ask for contact information to follow up afterwards and continue the conversation about your issue.

Public Health Matters: A STRONG ECONOMY SUPPORTED BY HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



A screenshot of the latest *Public Health Matters* infographic 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. To read more, click [here](#).

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 these are above the original conference rate, these are still more affordable than the standard room price at the hotel.

alPHA has also secured a room block at the Union Hotel. Booking is simple. Please see the e-mail 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).

alPHA would like to thank Northwestern Health Unit for co-hosting this event. alPHA is pleased to announce there is already strong interest from previous sponsors. If you know of any additional sponsors, please contact Lynne Russell, Coordinator, Member Services.





Health Promotion Ontario update

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO) held its AGM on December 10, 2025, and heard a keynote address from Dr. Claire Betker, Scientific Director for the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health on the Core Competencies for Public Health as they relate to the field of health promotion. The AGM also highlighted the Health Promotion Ontario updated website: www.healthpromotionontario.ca and we are continuing to build content that adds value for members. The HPO new membership year begins April 1. Membership connects you with a vibrant community dedicated to advancing the field of health promotion. Visit the website to learn more about membership classes, qualifications and fees. We will soon be sharing information related to the call for nominations for the Lori Chow Memorial Awards, acknowledging individuals and projects that contribute to the work of health promotion. We are also recruiting for the Executive Committee. If you are interested in learning more, please email healthpromotionontario@gmail.com.



OPHNL update

With new *Ontario Public Health Standards*, public health nursing competencies, community health nursing standards of practice, and continued expanded scope of practice for nursing, it is important public health nursing leaders are supported to lead through change. The Ontario Association for Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL) is working to support our members through a redesign of our website to integrate technology that supports members to network, collaborate, and share resources. Furthermore, OPHNL is building on the success and momentum of our Spring 2025 Workshop and is planning a workshop in April 2026 to provide members with networking and professional development opportunities.

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





Respiratory Resources

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

Recent Resources

- [Strengthening Workforce Capacity in Emergency Management](#)
- [Ontario Tobacco, Vaping & Cannabis By-law Summary - 2025](#) (updated)
- [Measles: Information for Health Care Provider](#) (updated)

Infectious Disease Surveillance Reports

- [iGAS in Ontario](#)
- [Measles in Ontario](#)
- [Legionellosis in Ontario](#)
- [Diseases of Public Health Significance Cases](#)

Upcoming Events

Jan. 22: [PHO Webinar: Smoking Cessation and Concurrent Alcohol and/or Substance Use](#)

Recent Presentations

- [Toxigenic C. diphtheriae in a donkey: Implications for zoonotic disease transmission and One Health Approach](#)
- [Understanding and Communicating Health Risks from Radon Gas](#)
- [Peel Regions Heat Vulnerability Index](#)
- [Building a National Health Data System for a Perinatal Opioid Exposure: A Collaborative Approach](#)
- [Measles and Rubella Outbreaks: Experiences from the Netherlands](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination in Canada: A Health Economic Lens](#)
- [Scales, Tails and Salmonella: A Comparative Analysis of Human and Reptile Isolates](#)
- [Public Health Surveillance Vision 2030: Moving Data to Public Health Action](#)
- [Pediatric Nutrition Guidelines – Birth to Six Years](#)



Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars

- Psychiatric Ethics in an Authoritarian State: Bearing Witness & Respecting Persons (Jan. 19)
- Queering Ethics: Navigating Dual/Overlapping Relationships From an Ethics of Care (2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub lecture) (Jan. 21)
- The Sustainability Challenge of Modern Computational Science: The Climate Crisis and AI for Health (Jan. 28)
- Health Inc Seminar Series: Mapping industry influence (Jan. 29)
- Health Case for a Fossil Fuel Advertising Ban (Feb. 5)



Ontario Public Health Directory: October 2025 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 **October 28, 2025**. To view the file, log into the alPHA website.



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.



Waterloo - Photo credit



January 29, 2026

In This Issue:

- Just launched: AMO's *Make Your Municipal Move* public campaign.
- Healthy Democracy tools and resources for 2026.
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) - important notice.
- New funding: Rural Ontario Development Fund: Second intake is now open.
- Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative.
- OSUM Conference: Save the date: April 29 – May 1 in Parry Sound.
- Free Information session for Youth Considering running for Municipal Office.
- AMO Regional and Single-Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up: 2026.
- New year, new skills: Navigating Conflict Relationships.
- Lead Where You Live - A Guide to Running for Municipal Council.
- More Dates! Free workshop series for those seeking re-election & first-time candidates.
- The phase-out of mercury containing lamps has started.
- Webinar: Demystifying Job Order Contracting.
- Webinar: Municipalities Under Pressure One Year Later report update.
- IESO Webinar on Long Lead Time (LLT) Procurement.
- Careers.

AMO Matters

AMO's new public advertising campaign, *Make Your Municipal Move*, brings awareness to municipalities and highlights the diverse career opportunities that are available at the level of government closest to people and communities. To learn more about the campaign and how you can get involved, visit municipalmove.ca, or email WGardiner@amo.on.ca.

Resolve to foster healthier municipal democracy in 2026 with help from AMO. With the next municipal election just around the corner take a look at [AMO Healthy Democracy tools and resources launched](#) to help you strengthen participation in Ontario's local governments.

The MMAH FIR system and all associated applications - reporting etc. including the MIDAS data feeds, will be down for a necessary system upgrade beginning on January 30, 2026. The maximum outage period is January 30, to March 1, 2026,

inclusive. [MIDAS](#) will be operational, however no new FIR data will be uploaded during this time.

Provincial Matters

The Ministry of Rural Affairs is [accepting applications](#) for the Rural Ontario Development Fund until February 26. Register for [an information session](#) being held February 12.

Under the Market Diversification and Trade Resiliency Initiative, the governments of Canada and Ontario will be accepting applications from February 17 to March 17 for [new funding](#) to help local businesses grow international and domestic sales.

Education Opportunities

The 2026 annual OSUM Conference is in Parry Sound April 29-May 1. Save the date and stay tuned for information on registration, accommodations and programming!

Many young people are inspired to run for municipal council, not everyone understands the ins and outs of doing so. Facilitated by current young municipal leaders, these sessions provide insights and strategies to build your understanding and confidence on becoming a candidate and how to run a campaign. View [full workshop details and register here](#).

You can now register for the AMO Regional and Single Tier Caucus Virtual Meet-Up meet. Scheduled for Monday, February 23 from 10am-12noon. This interactive session provides an opportunity for questions and answers on AMO's strategic policy and government relations priorities and approach. If you have top of mind questions, you can submit them in advance to events@amo.on.ca. [Register here](#).

Gain skills in building collaborative relationships and negotiating difficult ones. This 2 part, interactive workshop will explore the constructs, traps and pitfalls of conflict relationships, and how to approach, plan and execute relationships successfully. [Register here to save your spot](#).

The [Lead Where You Live Resource](#) provides key information for anyone running in the 2026 municipal election. This guide will introduce you to some of the key steps in that process. It will also give you a sense of what life is like as an elected member of a municipal council.

If you missed AMO's *Healthy Democracy Leadership Series: Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities* workshop registration, we are offering more dates to register. It's designed to equip you with the tools, resilience, and confidence to meet the challenges of the political landscape head-on. It's offered at no charge in two streams:

first time candidates, and those considering re-election in 2026. [Full details and registration information here.](#)

LAS

The [phase-out of mercury containing lamps](#) (fluorescent, metal halide, sodium, etc.) has started. Don't get left in the dark with outdated lighting systems. Contact Christian to use our simple, turn-key [Facility Lighting Service](#) this year.

Job Order Contracting (JOC) is a new method of construction project delivery in Canada. Join the Canoe Procurement Group on February 12 at 2PM EST to learn how and why JOC works. [For more information and to register, click here.](#)

Municipal Wire*

HelpSeeker Technologies is hosting a webinar for policymakers, public servants, and sector leaders on January 27th at 12:00PM to discuss the newly released Municipalities Under Pressure report. [Click here to register.](#)

The IESO is [hosting a webinar](#) today, January 29 at 2 pm to discuss the design of the upcoming LLT procurement including community engagement requirements, and timelines for municipal support confirmations. You can also register for a [municipal breakout session](#) following the main session.

Careers

[Vacant Unit Tax Compliance Auditor - City of Hamilton.](#) Closing Date: February 4 2026.

[Court Enforcement Officer / Agent d'exécution des actes de procédure - Ministry of the Attorney General / Ministère du Procureur general.](#) Closing Date: February 10, 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 [@AMOPolicy](#) on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

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[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

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