
Laboratory Services Branch Staff Layoffs

A motion adopted at the 2001 OPHA Annual General Meeting

Code: 2001-02 (MT) **Status:** Active

WHEREAS new or re-emerging forms of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, parasites and other agents of disease are responsible for disease outbreaks, and

WHEREAS there is a need for on-going research on the agents of disease and laboratory methods of identification, and

WHEREAS public health laboratory services are integral to the investigation of communicable disease outbreaks in the province of Ontario, and

WHEREAS five microbiologists and biochemists were recently laid off from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Central Public Health Laboratory,

AND WHEREAS these layoffs, and others before them, may compromise the ability of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and public health units to respond to outbreaks of disease with support from appropriate laboratory services,

THEREFORE, I would like to move that the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) express concern to the Minister of Health for Ontario, the Director of the Central Public Health Laboratory, and the Director of the Public Health Branch and Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario that the layoff of laboratory microbiologists, biochemists, technologists and other scientists may reduce the capacity of other Ministry of Health and Long Term Care staff, and public health unit staff, to respond effectively to disease outbreaks,

AND FURTHER THAT the OPHA Board request the Minister of Health and Long Term Care to respond to the above-mentioned concerns.

Regarding resolutions, position papers and motions:

Status: Policy statements (resolutions, position papers and motions) are categorized as:

ACTIVE, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have not yet been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is currently relevant to public health in Ontario.

ARCHIVED, if:

1. The activities outlined in the policy statement's implementation plan have been completed; or
2. The policy statement addresses an issue that is not currently relevant to public health in Ontario or is not based upon the most current evidence. The statement remains the position of the OPHA until a new statement is adopted that effectively reverses or essentially negates all or major elements of an earlier statement. In this instance, the former supersedes the latter

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