



Ontario Public Health Association
 l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario
 Established/Établi 1949

The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

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Constituent Societies
 Association of Ontario
 Health Centres (AOHC)
 Association of Public Health
 Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)

Association of Supervisors of
 Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
 (ASPHIO)

Canadian Institute of Public Health
 Inspectors - Ontario Branch (CIPHIO)

Community Health Nurses'
 Initiatives Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)

Ontario Association of Public
 Health Dentistry (OAPHD)

Ontario Association of Public Health
 Nursing Leaders (OAPHNL)

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
 (ODPH)

Ontario Society of Physical Activity
 Promoters in Public Health
 (OSPAPPH)

Charitable Registration
 Number 11924 8771 RR0001

September 24, 2019

Assistant Deputy Minister
 Emergency Health Services Division and Executive Lead for
 Public Health Modernization
 10th Floor, 56 Wellesley Street West
 Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

Dear Ms. Blair,

Re: Congratulations and Invite to OPHA's October 24th Board Meeting

On behalf of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) our Board of Directors, Constituent Societies and members, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Ministry of Health's Assistant Deputy Minister for Emergency Health Services Division and Executive Lead for Public Health Modernization.

I am writing to provide you with some background about our organization, signal areas where we may of assistance and invite you to our upcoming board meeting being held in Toronto on Thursday, October 24th.

For over 70 years, OPHA has been providing leadership on issues that advance public health and strengthen those working in public and community health through the expertise of our constituent societies, workgroups and board. OPHA is a member-based non-partisan, charitable organization which brings together a broad spectrum of individuals and groups from various backgrounds and sectors. Through our 10 constituent societies, active on our board of directors, OPHA represents the perspectives of thousands of public health professionals working at all levels from the front line to management as well as hundreds of others who are committed to, knowledgeable about and/or partners with public health.

OPHA has a unique role on the provincial scene. We are the only provincial group that:

- bridges public health, primary care and community health through having the Alliance for Healthier Communities on our board;

- has been an advisor on recent public health unit mergers and multi-public health unit collaborative projects through our partnership with Lough Barnes Consulting Group;
- offers expertise in system efficiencies having trained over 700 professionals in continuous quality improvement through our customized white, yellow, green and black belt Lean Sigma training done in partnership with the Leading Edge Group;
- brings together nine different public health discipline associations on our board and executive from nurses, inspectors, registered dietitians, dental staff, epidemiologists, health promoters to physical activity specialists representing both front line and management levels;
- integrates the perspectives of various sectors with members from health care, academia, students, the voluntary to the private sector; and
- supports volunteer-led, provincial workgroups that bring expert members from various disciplines and sectors to advance work on health equity, alcohol, cannabis, environmental health, reproductive health, breastfeeding, chronic disease prevention, and the built environment as well as a new professionals network.

Our members are knowledgeable about the impact of budget changes, how to approach issues of efficiency, areas that could benefit from stronger provincial coordination, and which geographic boundaries and groupings of health units could strengthen rather than detract from community health and wellbeing. Our Constituent Societies play an important role in building the capacity of their members, offering timely advice to government on system and program changes and providing provincial leadership and coordination on a variety of issues

In addition, OPHA is host to Nutrition Connections, a provincial hub for nutrition knowledge and collaboration. We're actively involved in various collaborative partnerships. I'm the past Chair of the 20 member Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance and Co-Chair of EcoHealth Ontario.

Again, we extend our best wishes as you take on this new role and look forward to working with you and your colleagues as you plan and implement the modernization of public health. We'll be following up with your office about your interest and availability to participate in our upcoming October 24th board meeting being held in Toronto. It would provide you with an opportunity to interact with representatives from our 10 constituent societies, board executive and members at large. In the interim, should you wish to contact me, I can be reached at 416 367-1281 or by writing to pwalsh@opha.on.ca.

Thank you for your consideration.



Pegeen Walsh

c.c. Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario
Ms. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Health