



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.

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

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Honourable Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

August 23, 2023

Dear Minister Jones,

Re: Government of Ontario's 'Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector' Announcement

On behalf of the leaders and members of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), we are writing to you to express our support and gratitude regarding the government's announcement outlining funding increases for the public health sector. We are pleased to see a return to the previous 75 percent provincial / 25 percent municipal cost-sharing ratio, as well as a one percent increase in funding in each of the next three years.

As we shared in our [2023 budget submission](#), OPHA believes that increased sustainable funding for a robust and locally driven public health system will help to ensure the implementation of essential health promotion and protection activities including population health assessment, health equity, emergency management, chronic disease prevention, food safety, healthy environments, healthy growth and development, immunization, infectious communicable diseases prevention and control, oral health, safe water, school health, and substance misuse prevention. The government's funding announcement is a positive move in the right direction and OPHA looks forward to discussing future investments in public health to ensure that the sector can meet its ongoing mandate, as well as respond to urgent issues including pandemics, the opioid crisis, housing and homelessness, and the impacts of climate change among others.

OPHA is also very pleased to see the government's announcement acknowledge that the impact of the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of a resilient public health system. During the pandemic, public health staff and management have been at the forefront of the response. They displayed agility to meet changing directives, worked tirelessly over long hours to meet growing demands, and faced unpredictable situations as well as risks of infection for themselves and their loved

ones. OPHA would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can restore and strengthen the public health workforce as the backbone of the system.

Again, on behalf of our 500 members and our constituent societies, OPHA is grateful for your announcement and recognition of the public health system and its role in ensuring healthy communities for all Ontarians. We look forward to working with you and would appreciate scheduling a meeting with you in the near future. John Atkinson, OPHA's Executive Director, is available to work with your staff to schedule a meeting and can be contacted at jatkinson@opha.on.ca or 647-504-4512.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Churchill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" at the end.

Kevin Churchill
President, Board of Directors

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

More about the Ontario Public Health Association

OPHA has established a strong record of success as the voice of public health in Ontario. We are a member-based, not-for-profit association that has been advancing the public health agenda since 1949. OPHA provides leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthens the impact of those who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. OPHA does this through a variety of means including capacity building, research, informing public policy, and knowledge exchange. Our membership represents many disciplines from across multiple sectors.