

**Board of Health Meeting  
MINUTES**

**October 25, 2023 at 5:00 pm**

**SSM Algoma Community Room | Video/Teleconference**

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Sally Hagman - Chair  
Luc Morrisette - 1st Vice-Chair  
Deborah Graystone - 2nd Vice-Chair  
Donald McConnell  
Loretta O'Neill  
Sonia Tassone  
Matthew Shoemaker  
Jody Wildman

**APH MEMBERS**

Dr. Jennifer Loo - Medical Officer of Health & CEO  
Dr. John Tuinema - Associate Medical Officer of Health &  
Director of Health Protection  
Rick Webb - Director of Corporate Services  
Kristy Harper - Director of Health Promotion & Chief  
Nursing Officer  
Leo Vecchio - Manager of Communications  
Leslie Dunseath - Manager of Accounting Services  
Liliana Bressan - Manager of Effective Health Practice  
Trina Mount - Executive Assistant

**REGRETS:** Julila Hemphill, Suzanne Trivers - BOH members

**GUESTS:** Virginia Huber - Manager of Environmental Health

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**1.0 Meeting Called to Order - 5:00 pm**

- a. Land Acknowledgment - Read by Sally Hagman
- b. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - No conflicts were declared
- c. Roll Call

**2.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-91**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill

**Seconded:** S. Tassone

THAT the Board of Health meeting agenda dated October 25, 2023, be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.0 Delegations / Presentations**

- a. Environmental Health - Program Overview  
V. Huber, the APH Program Manager of Environmental Health, provided an overview of APH's Environmental Health Program (EH). She spoke to the related Ontario Public Health Standards and the protocols and Acts that guide the program. Past and present work to assist with COVID-19 was outlined. Virginia went on to describe the state of APH's Public Health Inspector workforce (recruitment and retention) during a time of province-wide shortages. Current priorities and future directions were identified.

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-92**

**Moved:** D. Graystone

**Seconded:** L. Morrisette

THAT the Board of Health meeting minutes dated September 27, 2023, be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

## 5.0 Business Arising from Minutes

### a. Support of Bill 103 – Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids)

The above-named briefing note included in the agenda package was discussed with the Board questioning why a difference in the minimum age to buy cigarettes compared to vaping products. APH acknowledged the Board's concern for consistency, and went on to describe the intent of supporting Bill 103, which would help to influence public policy in this area. The resolution that follows was adopted.

#### **RESOLUTION 2023-93**

**Moved:** D. Graystone  
**Seconded:** L. O'Neill

**Whereas** Canada currently has the highest youth vaping rates in the world<sup>(1)</sup>, with almost half of young adults (ages 20-24) and 29% of youth (ages 15 -19) having tried vaping.<sup>(1)</sup> Rates of youth who vape have grown to 30.6% of grade 7-12 students in Northern Ontario (2018-19), who reporting having used electronic cigarettes at least once in the previous year, compared with 22.7% for the province;<sup>(2)</sup> and,

**Whereas**, there are more than 30 countries that have banned the sale of all e-cigarettes, and more who have banned all flavoured vaping products (recently Australia). Five Canadian provinces have already banned flavoured vaping products -- the Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nunavut, and Nova Scotia -- with Quebec legislation to take effect on October 31, 2023.<sup>(3)</sup>; and

**Whereas** vaping is increasingly linked to health harms including nicotine addiction, lung injury, burns, cognitive problems, poor mental health and even suicide<sup>(4-6)</sup>; and

**Whereas** vaping (e-cigarettes) is targeted to youth in advertising and with the addition of novel and pleasurable flavours. More than 90% of young people used a flavoured vaping product at initiation and continued to vape flavoured products.<sup>(7)</sup> These adolescents are more likely to continue vaping and taking more puffs per vaping occasion.<sup>(8)</sup> More than 48 per cent said they would quit if flavours were banned<sup>(9)</sup>; and

**Whereas**, there is substantial public support across Canada to increase the minimum age of purchasing vapour products to 21<sup>(10)</sup>. Tobacco cigarette and alcohol research show that increasing the minimum age of purchase delays the onset of initiation and reduces underage consumption<sup>(10)</sup>; and

**Whereas**, education strategies of healthcare providers and community members on the harms of vaping are supported by the Canadian Paediatric Society.<sup>(11)</sup> The "CATCH My Breath Youth E-cigarette Prevention Program" found that 82% of students reported that they will look at e-cigarette ads differently because of the education they received<sup>(12)</sup>; and

**Whereas**, to support Bill 103 will align Algoma Public Health with the Canadian Public Health Agency's tobacco control recommendations<sup>(13)</sup>, the Canadian Paediatric Society<sup>(4)</sup>, the Canadian Lung Association<sup>(14)</sup>, Heart and Stroke Canada<sup>(15)</sup> and more; and

**Whereas** the Ontario Public Health Standards for Substance Use and Injury Prevention and School Health are supported by the amendments in Bill 103 to the Smoke Free Ontario Act; and

**Therefore**, let it be resolved that the Board of Health endorse proposed Bill 103 - Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023, which aims to prevent vaping initiation and decrease vaping use by banning flavoured vaping products, raising the minimum age for purchasing vaping products from 19 to 21 years, and prohibiting the promotion of vapor products.

**Be it further resolved** that Further that this endorsement be shared with relevant stakeholders.

**CARRIED**

## 6.0 Reports to the Board

### a. Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer Reports

#### i. MOH Report - October 25, 2023

- Program Highlight – School Health & ISPA Update

Dr. Loo spoke to her report.

APH has noticed cases of COVID and other respiratory infections are increasing in our communities, with outbreaks in long-term care/retirement homes and healthcare facilities.

District-wide distribution of COVID and influenza vaccines has begun, and APH is offering clinics starting with high-risk groups and opening up to the general public. APH will make COVID test kits available as long as provincial supplies last.

An update on public health unit voluntary mergers was provided. The Ministry of Health has established a key informant group to advise on the development of the process. The Ministry is expected to provide further details by the end of October. Per the resolutions of our Boards, the MOHs and BOH Chairs of Algoma, Sudbury, and North Bay/Parry Sound health units had an initial meeting to engage in exploratory dialogue. An invitation has been extended to Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, for an in-person meeting of the northeast to discuss this subject. APH has been working hard to catch up with school immunizations post-pandemic. Efforts are directed to reinvigorate a return to a comprehensive school health approach encompassing youth mental health, wellness and substance use in Algoma.

**RESOLUTION  
2023-94**

**Moved:** J. Wildman  
**Seconded:** D. McConnell

THAT the report of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO for October 25, 2023, be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6.0 a. Finance and Audit**

**i. Finance Committee Chair Report**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-95**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** D. Graystone

THAT the Finance Committee Chair Report for October 18, 2023, be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ii. Unaudited Financial Statements ending August 31, 2023**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-96**

**Moved:** M. Shoemaker  
**Seconded:** L. Morrisette

THAT the Board of Health approves the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**iii. Briefing Note - Server Upgrades**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-97**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** D. McConnell

THAT the Board of Health approve agency reserve funds be used to upgrade APH server infrastructure.

**CARRIED**

**iv. By-Law 06-01 Sewage Systems Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code Act**

**RESOLUTION  
2023-98**

**Moved:** D. Graystone  
**Seconded:** L. Morrisette

THAT the Board of Health approve **By-Law 06-01 Sewage Systems Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code Act**, with change as identified.

**CARRIED**

**7.0 New Business/General Business**

Not applicable.

## 8.0 Correspondence

- a. Letter to Algoma Ontario Health Team partner Board of Directors from Algoma Ontario Health Team (AOHT), regarding an Information session and discussion on November 9, 2023.  
\*S. Hagman and D. Graystone expressed interest in attending.
- b. Letter to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks from Sudbury & Districts Public Health regarding calls for expansion of outdoor air quality monitoring stations and the Air Quality Health Index across Northern Ontario.
- c. Letter to Deputy Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister from Boards of Health and Medical Officers of Health for Algoma Public Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, and Public Health Sudbury & Districts regarding voluntary mergers of Boards of Health within Ontario's public health system dated October 13, 2023.

## 9.0 Items for Information

- a. **alPHa Information Break - October 2023**
- b. **2022 Annual Report for Renfrew County and District Health Unit**

## 10.0 Addendum

The Board expressed interest in a return of the indicator dashboard and Dr. Loo apprised that a fullsome approach to indicators is being examined and will be provided to the Board.

## 11.0 In-Camera

For discussion of labour relations and employee negotiations, matters about identifiable individuals, **adoption of in-camera minutes**, security of the property of the board, litigation or potential litigation.

### RESOLUTION

2023-99

**Moved:** L. O'Neil

**Seconded:** S. Tassone

THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.

## 12.0 Open Meeting

There were no resolutions resulting from the in-camera meeting.

## 13.0 Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:

### Finance and Audit Committee Meeting

Wednesday November 15, 2023 - 5:00 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

### Board of Health

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 - 5:00 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

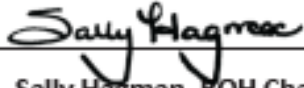
## 14.0 Evaluation

15.0 Adjournment 6:51 p.m.

**RESOLUTION**  
**2023-103**

**Moved:** D. Graystone  
**Seconded:** M. Shoemaker

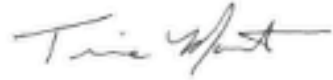
THAT the Board of Health meeting adjourns.



Sally Hagman, BOH Chair

November 22, 2023

Date



Trina Mount, Executive Assistant

November 22, 2023

Date