

## June 25, 2025 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

SSM Algoma Community Room / Teams Meeting
294 Willow Avenue
Sault Ste Marie, P6B 5B4
www.algomapublichealth.com

#### Meeting Book - June 25, 2025, Board of Health Meeting

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1.0

2.0

4.0

5.0

6.0

#### Board of Health Meeting AGENDA

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 - 5:00 pm SSM Algoma Community Room | Videoconference

**BOARD MEMBERS APH MEMBERS** Dr. Jennifer Loo - Medical Officer of Health/CEO Sally Hagman Julila Hemphill Dr. John Tuinema - Associate Medical Officer of Health & Director of Health Donald McConnell - 2nd Vice-Chair Protection Luc Morrissette Rick Webb - Director of Corporate Services Kristy Harper - Director of Health Promotion & Chief Nursing Officer Sonny Spina Leslie Dunseath - Manager of Accounting Services Sonia Tassone Leo Vecchio - Manager of Communications Suzanne Trivers - Board Chair Tania Caputo - Board Secretary Jody Wildman - 1st Vice-Chair Natalie Zagordo STAFF GUESTS: Virginia Huber - Manager of Environmental Health, Chris Glibota - Public Health Inspector, Lauren Febbraro, Health Promotion Specialist, Jasmine Bryson - Supervisor of Effective Public Health Practice **Meeting Called to Order** S. Trivers a. Land Acknowledgment b. Roll Call **Declaration of Conflict of Interest Adoption of Agenda** S. Trivers **RESOLUTION** THAT the Board of Health agenda dated June 25, 2025, be approved as presented. **Delegations / Presentations** V. Huber, a. Environmental Health: Summer Programming Highlight C. Glibota, L. Febbraro **Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting** S. Trivers **RESOLUTION** THAT the Board of Health meeting minutes dated May 28, 2025, be approved as presented. **Business Arising from Minutes** S. Trivers Reports to the Board J. Loo a. Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer Reports MOH Report - June 2025 • 2024 APH Annual Report - Building Foundations for Healthier Communities **RESOLUTION** THAT the report of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO be accepted as presented.

b. Finance and Audit L. Dunseath

i. Unaudited Financial Statements ending April 30, 2025.

#### **RESOLUTION**

THAT the Board of Health accepts the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending April 30, 2025, as presented.

7.0	New Business/General Business  a. alPHa AGM Report	S. Tassone
8.0	Correspondence - requiring action	S. Trivers
9.0	Correspondence - for information  a. alPHa Information Break - June 2025	S. Trivers
10.0	Addendum	S. Trivers
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  THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.	S. Trivers
12.0	Open Meeting Resolutions resulting from in-camera meeting.	S. Trivers
13.0	Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:  Governance Committee Meeting  Wednesday, September 10, 2025 @ 5:00 pm  SSM Algoma Community Room   Video Conference	S. Trivers
	Board of Health Wednesday, September 24, 2025 @ 5:00 pm SSM Algoma Community Room   Video Conference	
14.0	Annual Self-Evaluation	S. Trivers

THAT the Board of Health meeting adjourns.

S. Trivers

## **Environmental Health Program: Summer Programming Highlight**

Virginia Huber, Manager of Environmental Health &

Chris Glibota, Public Health Inspector

Contributing author: Lauren Febbraro, Health Promotion Specialist

June 2025











## Overview

- APH's Strategic Directions & Ontario Public Health Standards
- Student Led Summer Program Highlight
  - Recreational Water Program
  - West Nile Program
  - Tick Surveillance Program
- Health Promotion: Summer Highlight across Environmental Health
- Questions



## **Strategic Directions**



Advance the priority public health needs of Algoma's diverse communities.

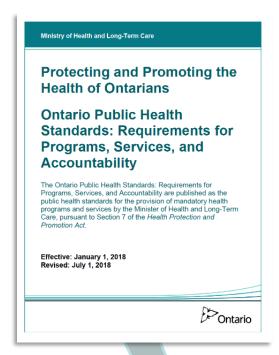


Improve the impact and effectiveness of Algoma Public Health programs.



Grow and celebrate an organizational culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement.

## Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)



### **Food Safety**

#### Goal

To prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illnesses.

#### **Safe Water**

#### Goals

- To prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illnesses related to drinking water.
- To prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illnesses and injuries related to recreational water use.

### **Healthy Environments**

#### Goal

To reduce exposure to health hazards<sup>9</sup> and promote the development of healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate.

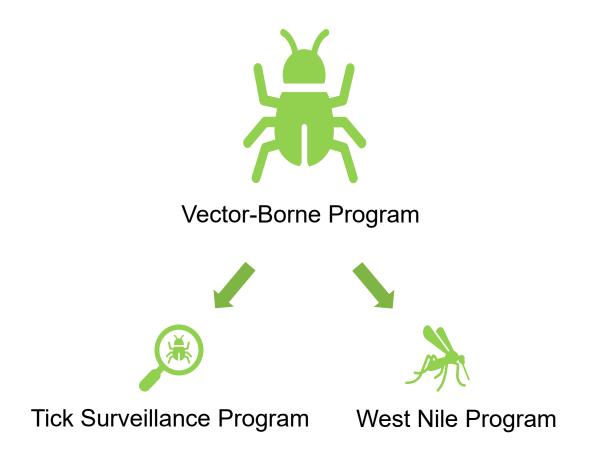
## Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control

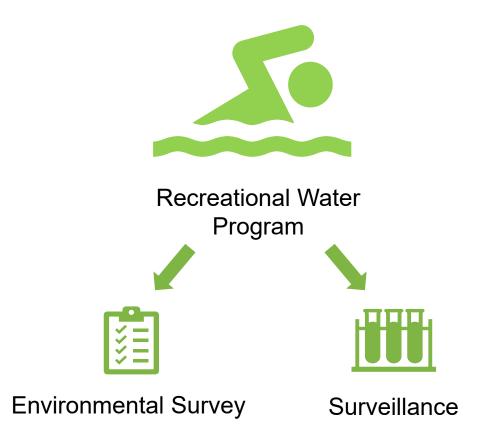
#### Goal

To reduce the burden of communicable diseases and other infectious diseases of public health significance. 12,13



## Environmental Health Summer Program Highlight







## Recreational Water Program Highlight

START OF SEASON CONTINOUS SURVEILLANCE

COMMUNICATION







Initial assessment of public beaches across the district of Algoma which includes: updated inventory, identification of potential hazards or safety concerns, and any changes from previous years. Beaches across the district of Algoma are sampled weekly with five water samples taken at each beach. Samples are taken to Public Health Ontario Lab (PHOL) for testing. Findings are communicated with the public via social media platforms and the APH interactive beach map.



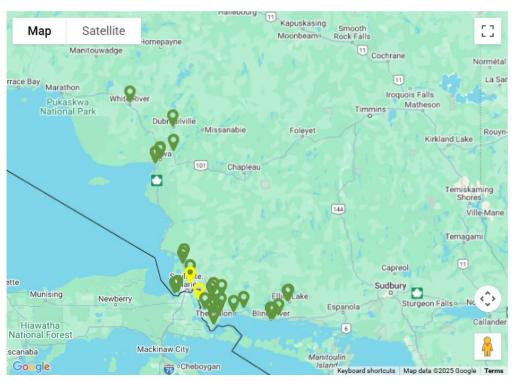
## Recreational Water Program Highlight

- The beach program typically consists of two summer students with support from aligned Public Health Inspectors.
- **Three** swimming advisories were issued in 2024.
  - Advisories are issued when bacteria levels are elevated.
  - The advisory is posted to APH social media pages and the APH interactive beach map.
- Partnerships include SwimDrinkFish (The SwimGuide), PHOL and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Goal of this program is to reduce the risk of water-borne illness and injury related to recreational water use at public beaches.



## Recreational Water Program Highlight

- Results are posted to the APH Interactive Public Beach Map available to the public. The map is categorized by:
  - Green: Open/Safe for swimming
  - Yellow: Swim at own risk
  - Red: Posted/Unsafe for swimming
  - Orange: Blue-green algae bloom/Unsafe for swimming
- Confirmed or suspected blue-green algae blooms are also highlighted on the APH blue-green algae warning map.
- In 2024 the Interactive Public Beach Map had:
  - 4,627 views
  - 102 clicks



APH Interactive Public Beach Map can be found here.



## Vector Borne Disease (VBD) - West Nile Virus Program Highlight

# TRAPPING IDENTIFICATION COMMUNICATION

Mosquito traps are set up in various urban areas across the district. Traps are typically UV light traps with a cooler of dry ice and a fan. A mesh catch basin is used to trap mosquitos. Traps are set for 24-hour periods every two weeks at the same site over the course of the summer.

Mosquitos are sent to Entomogen for specification of mosquito species and presence of West Nile Virus. Findings are communicated with the public via social media platforms and through news releases as needed.



## VBD- West Nile Virus Program Highlight

- The West Nile Virus program typically consists of two summer students with support from aligned Public Health Inspectors.
- In 2024, the West Nile Program ran from July 1, 2024, to August 26, 2024.
- A total of 70 traps from 14 different locations throughout the District of Algoma were set up and monitored.
- In 2024, **Two** human cases of West Nile Virus and **three** West Nile Virus positive birds were confirmed in the Algoma District.
- The goal of this program is to provide an assessment of the risk to the public.



#### Algoma Public Health

August 16, 2024 · 🚱

We are reminding residents to protect themselves from mosquito bites and West Nile Virus. A human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been confirmed in the Algoma District.

Reduce your chance of getting the West Nile Virus (carried by some mosquitoes) by:

- Using an approved mosquito repellent.
- Wearing long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes, and socks.
- Wear light-coloured and loose-fitting clothing.

Read the PSA to learn more: https://www.algomapublichealth.com/.../protect-yourself.../



## VBD- Tick Borne Illness Surveillance Program Highlight

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE

COMMUNICATION







Active Surveillance includes collecting ticks from their natural habitat. The tick dragging method is used during the spring and fall when blacklegged ticks are most active. Locations are selected based on suitable blacklegged tick habitat and previous confirmed findings.

Identification of ticks brought to APH from members of the public. Findings are communicated with the public via social media platforms and through news releases as needed. Resources are shared at relevant community events.



## VBD- Tick Borne Illness Surveillance Program Highlight

- The tick surveillance program typically consists of two summer students with support from aligned Public Health Inspectors.
- In 2024, APH partnered with the Canadian Lyme Sentinel Network to complete tick dragging at five selected locations. APH was one of nine regions to participate across Ontario.
- In 2024, A total of **57** Ixodes Species ticks were processed at APH.
- The goal of this program is to look for trends in tick populations across the district of Algoma to identify if blacklegged tick populations are becoming established.



## Summer Promo

- Increased food safety promotional work highlighting farmers and makers markets which open during the summer season.
- Tips for seasonal private water system testing and reminders to operators about requirements when opening seasonal facilities.
- Water Sample Bottle Depot Program runs in collaboration with the Public Health Ontario Laboratory from April to September to reduce barriers by creating more convenient bottle pick-up points. Environmental Health Summer students support this program by providing inventory distribution and ongoing monitoring.









## Questions?

Chi-Miigwech. Merci. Thank You.

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June 25, 2025

Report of the

## Medical Officer of Health / CEO



School Health & Community Wellness at St. Mary's Relay for Life

Prepared by:
Dr. Jennifer Loo and the
Leadership Team

Presented to: Algoma Public Health Board of Health

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Work in Algoma				

#### **APH AT-A-GLANCE**

Summer is a herald of warm weather, enjoying the outdoors, and more often than not, construction. All of these elements have been part of the work of Algoma Public Health (APH) teams this past month.

As described in this evening's presentation to the Board of Health (BOH), APH's environmental health team have been actively conducting vector-borne surveillance and supporting <u>safe water recreation</u> at <u>Algoma beaches</u>. APH emergency management and communications teams have also been <u>reminding Algoma residents to be prepared for extreme heat</u> and amplifying special <u>air quality</u> statements to local partners. Thanks to the installation of four PurpleAir sensors in 2024, which APH supported in collaboration with Meteorological Services of Canada and local community partners, residents in four communities in East and North Algoma can now access <u>real time local air quality data</u>; previously, real time air quality information in Algoma was only available from air monitoring based in Sault Ste. Marie.

Turning to the indoor environment, new boilers have recently been installed at APH's Sault Ste. Marie office and repairs to the building envelope are now underway. These essential maintenance activities help keep APH's facilities in a state of good repair to the benefit of employee health and safety, while improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting the agency's climate change mitigation efforts.

Summer is also a time for reflection and celebration. The 2024 Annual Report included in this BOH package, highlights local public health achievements across the breadth of APH's programs and services, all of which were delivered at a cost to the Algoma citizen of 50 cents per person per day. One notable snapshot of the positive outcomes from public health efforts is the table of immunization coverage for 7-year-olds in the 2023-2024 school year (p.7). This table shows that Algoma children are beginning to get caught up, and indeed, now have higher childhood immunization coverage rates compared to rates for Ontario.

Taking time to celebrate our successes is important, and consistent with APH's strategic priority of recognizing and sharing the stories of our people and partners. And we know that the work must continue. The current measles outbreak is not yet over. Immunization catch-up clinics will still continue over the summer. As shown in the 2024 Community Health Profile, many health and health equity challenges remain for Algoma residents across the lifespan. Accordingly, and as directed by the BOH, this summer, APH staff will be reflecting on the agency's current







Boiler Installation at APH

Report of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer June 25, 2025 Page 4 of 4

strategic directions, with a summary of recommendations to be reported back to the BOH in the fall of 2025.



## A Message from the Board of Health Chair

In 2024, Algoma Public Health continued to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect the health of all people in Algoma through programs, partnerships, and evidence-informed action. As a local public health agency, our role extends beyond individual care to advancing population health—ensuring that the conditions in which people live, work, learn, and age, support well-being for everyone.

A cornerstone of this work is the ongoing assessment of our region's health. This year, we released the Community Health Profile, a comprehensive population health assessment informed by more than 2,000 indicators across multiple data sources. The Profile provides a detailed look at the health status of Algoma's population, including social determinants of health, health behaviours, access to services, and patterns in morbidity and mortality. It serves as a critical foundation for setting public health priorities and aligning collective action to address health inequities.

Across all programs—from safe food and water, to emergency preparedness, chronic disease prevention, oral health, and harm reduction—Algoma Public Health continues to respond to local needs with professionalism, compassion, and commitment to equity. We are grateful to our dedicated staff, our Board of Health, and our many community partners whose contributions help make this work possible.

Together, we are building the conditions for a healthier, more equitable future in Algoma.

#### Sally Hagman

Chair, Board of Health

#### Dr. John Tuinema

Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO

## 2024 Board of Health

Member	Approved by
Sally Hagman (Chair)	Township of Blind River, Township of Spanish, Township of North Shore
Luc Morrissette (1st Vice-Chair/ Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee)	City of Elliot Lake
Deborah Graystone	Province of Ontario
Julila Hemphill	The Municipality of Wawa, Township of White River, Township of Dubreuiville
Don McConnell, (2nd Vice-Chair/ Chair of the Governance Committee)	Province of Ontario
Loretta O'Neill	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Matthew Shoemaker	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Sonia Tassone	City of Sault Ste. Marie
Suzanne Trivers	Town of Thessalon, Municipality of Huron Shores
Jody Wildman	Town of Bruce Mines, Village of Hilton Beach & Townships of Hilton, Jocelyn, Johnson, Laird, Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional, Plummer Additional, Prince, St. Joseph, Tarbutt Township

## **Healthy Growth and Development**

**GOAL**: To achieve optimal preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental, and family health in Algoma.



- The birth rate for Algoma is 7.1 live births per 1,000 people, which is an average of 870 babies per year in Algoma.
- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful and potentially traumatic events that occur within the
  first 18 years of life and increase likelihood of negative outcomes; infants born into a family that has been
  involved with child protective services, has concerns about money or has a parent with a mental illness
  are examples of ACEs that are impacting Algoma more than the rest of Ontario.
- APH provides supports and programs to promote resiliency and optimal early childhood growth and development in families and is increasing access to development data for Algoma's preschool-aged children.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, family support workers, a registered practical nurse, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



## **686** calls to new moms

within 48 hours of new baby being born: Blind River: **38** Elliot Lake: **50** Sault Ste. Marie: **570** 

Wawa: **28** 



#### 544

indivduals received breastfeeding support: East and North Algoma: **27** Sault Ste. Marie: **517** 



#### 870

appointments provided for services including birth control, STI testing, pregnancy care and options, and related support.



#### 25

partners on the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Child and Family Network that APH co-chairs.



#### 13

partners collaborating with APH for the Nurturing Algoma research project.

#### Leading the Nurturing Algoma research project

Nurturing Algoma is a collaborative project with agencies across Algoma and researchers from SickKids and Queen's University to support children from infancy to youth.

As the second community to join the national Canadian Database of Development, Infancy to Six, Algoma plays a key role in building Canada's first preschool development database. The project promotes developmental screening in the first five years which is a critical period for brain development and lifelong health.



6 public health nurses (PHNs) were trained in Cognitive
Behavioural Therapy to
help support perinatal

mental health in Algoma. Some PHNs received advanced training and participate in a Community of Practice to share mental health strategies with all APH Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) home visiting staff.

## **School Health**

GOAL: To achieve optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools in Algoma.



- 19.1% of students in grades 7–12 in the North report riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol, in the past year.
- Fruit and vegetable consumption is low in children and youth in Algoma.
- APH partners with local organizations to increase knowledge and skills in Algoma's children and youth and promote environments that support positive behaviours for health through programs like Get Home Safe and Rainbow Food Explorers.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a health promotion specialist, a registered dietitian, and clerical support.



#### Get Home Safe

386 students from 5 high schools across Algoma took part in Get Home Safe Events; over half (55-61%) reported an increase in knowledge and awareness of substance use, safe ways to get home, and where to find support.



The Get Home Safe Event was a great way to increase awareness... and students' understanding of drug and alcohol use. The event allowed students to not only utilize the interactive tools, but also to

engage in conversation, ask questions and become familiar with the adults and resources available in the school. By having the event include the APH school nurse, the mental health and addictions nurse, the school mental health worker and our OPP community liaison officer, students could become more familiar and comfortable with these adults in the event they ever require support. Overall, we were very happy with the outcomes of the event!

- Participating school mental health worker



#### Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program (NFVP)

- 11,483 students in every elementary and intermediate school across Algoma receive fruits and vegetables through the NFVP.
- **78%** of students said that the NFVP helps them eat more fruit and vegetables.



## Rainbow Food Explorers promotes food neutral classrooms

- **4** schools in Algoma piloted the program to support hands-on, fun learning about healthy eating.
- 100% of elementary schools in Algoma now have kid-safe knife-kits and toolkits to support Rainbow Food Explorers in their schools.



My Grade 2 students are so engaged when they get to be Rainbow Food Explorers. They're connecting Canada's Food Guide to what they eat and trying new foods like red peppers,

blueberries, and pears - all in a pressure-free environment. These lessons will stay in my program moving forward.

- Teacher, Northern Heights elementary school

## **Oral Health**

GOAL: To achieve optimal oral health in school-aged children and seniors and reduce the burden of chronic disease related to oral health in Algoma.



- Approximately 3 in 10 students entering school in Algoma, had current or a history of tooth decay.
- Only 3 in 10 senior residents in Algoma reported having dental insurance coverage.
- APH helps ensure school-aged children and older adults across Algoma have good oral health.
- Across the program, there are registered dental hygienists, dental health educators, and clerical support.



**4,406** children had oral health screening in **54** schools:

Elliot Lake & Area: **241** 

· Sault Ste Marie: **3,474** 

North Algoma: 140

· Central & East Algoma: **545** 



**64** children were enrolled in Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) through school screenings. HSO provides oral health coverage for eligible children in need.



**1,409** community members were supported with oral health information and system navigation.



**142** community members received dentures:

- East and North Algoma: **78**
- Sault Ste. Marie: 64

The Ontario Seniors
Dental Care Program
(OSDCP) has helped
Clarence and me so
much. Before, we had trouble
eating and constant dental
issues. Clarence had no teeth
for a long time - he was
ashamed, spoke with a muffled
voice, and avoided smiling. Now,
with dentures, he can finally
eat properly and enjoy his food
again.





Photo: From left, Stacey, dental health educator, Elizabeth Leger, OSDCP client.

#### To expand access and equity in oral health across Algoma, the oral health team:

- Delivered community presentations on the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO), providing application support, oral health demonstrations, and care navigation for eligible seniors and families.
- · Completed prenatal appointments focused on oral hygiene during pregnancy and early infant care.
- Received additional training in 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA) to support inclusive, person-centred care.
- · Installed a reclining dental chair at our Sault Ste. Marie office to enhance accessibility and client comfort.



## **Immunization**

**GOAL**: To reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases through immunization in Algoma.



- Algoma's 7 year olds have received 85-95% of the childhood immunizations recommended for their age (see the full table of coverage rates for 7 year olds below).
- Most school aged children and youth aged 7-17 years old were in compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act by the end of the 2023/24 school year.
- APH ensures vaccines in Algoma are safe, effective and accessible, including to populations particularly impacted by vaccine preventable diseases.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, registered nurses, a registered practical nurse, and clerical support.



**49,000+** doses of vaccine were distributed to **54** healthcare facilities who administer publicly funded vaccines and receive annual fridge inspections by public health nurses.



Vaccinations administered in the school setting

HPV: 2,015Hep B: 1,945

Meningococcal: 1,278

· Tdap: **908** 



**5,706** letters were sent to families of children between 7-17 years of age with missing vaccine information; following this letter, **3,791** suspension notices were issued to prompt families to update vaccine records at APH to avoid school exclusion.



**159** catch-up clinics were held in APH offices to help children and youth get up to date with their immunizations, and **4** clinics were held in community locations to help increase access to childhood immunizations.



**15** immunization related communications were sent to healthcare providers.

#### **Expanding protection against RSV**

In fall 2024, the Ministry of Health expanded eligibility for RSV immunization to include all infants under 1 year of age and children aged 12–24 months with certain high-risk medical conditions.



Between October 1 and December 31, APH provided RSV immunization appointments, as well as distributed **523** doses of RSV immunizations to healthcare providers across the district.

Coverage rates for childhood immunizations (7 year olds, 2023-2024 school year).

Antigen	Algoma	Ontario
Diphtheria	86.6	69.9
Meningococcal	94.9	82.1
Measles	86.6	70.4
Mumps	86.3	70.2
Pertusis	86.6	69.8
Polio	87.1	70.2
Rubella	95.4	85.2
Tetanus	86.6	69.9
Varicella	85.4	68.6

## Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

**GOAL:** To reduce the burden of chronic diseases of public health importance and improve well-being in Algoma.



- Fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity in those aged 12 years and older in Algoma are below recommendations and are significantly impacted by social, environmental and economic factors.
- APH partners with local organizations and communities to reduce barriers to buying healthy food or being physically active, supporting people in staying active, connected, and supported in their communities.
- An average of 17.6% of households in Algoma don't have enough money for food; APH monitors local food
  affordability and advocates for income-based solutions to reduce food insecurity.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a health promotion specialist, a registered dietitian, and clerical support.



**2** resources were developed and shared to raise awareness about food insecurity.



**12** staff completed two full days of community engagement training.



**2** Board of Health resolutions called for higher social assistance rates and more funding for health promotion and disease prevention, based on food affordability data.



**13** local, regional, provincial, and national committees include APH participation to help improve health and well-being; local committees include: Wawa and area Food Strategy, Transportation Group, East Algoma Mental Health Collaboration Committee and Sault Trails Advocacy Committee.

#### Working together to improve community health

For years, Algoma Public Health and partners along the North Shore have identified transportation as a barrier to accessing basic needs, such as health services, food, and social activities. The North Channel Transportation Group is a collaborative of community partners including Algoma Public Health, municipalities, North Shore Health Network, Dr. HS Trefry Memorial Centre, Huron Shores Family Health Team, Algoma Manor, and Algoma District Services Administration Board working together to share information, identify transportation needs, and support each other in applying for funding that will address gaps.

In 2024 APH shared a funding opportunity through the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. With the support of APH, North Shore Health Network, and Huron Shores Family Health Team, the Town of Blind River received funding to organize transportation services that assist residents in attending appointments, accessing food, and participating in community activities

- Regional working groups are a great way to learn about strengths and unique solutions have been developed for our residents. Northern Ontario, specifically Algoma, is home to a lot of strategic thinkers with boots-on-theground experiences. Our priority is to ensure that our vulnerable populations have affordable and reliable access to medical, social, and grocery stops.
- Karen Bittner, Director of Facilities and Community Services, Town of Blind River

## Substance Use and Injury Prevention

GOAL: To reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use in Algoma.



- Overall, rates of substance use are higher in Algoma.
- The toxic drug crisis impacts the North differently compared to Southern Ontario; the rate of opioid toxicity deaths in Algoma was nearly three times the provincial rate in 2024.
- APH works closely with community partners across Algoma to report on local substance use-related harms and to support the safety and wellbeing of people who use substances.
- Across the program, there are public health nurses, a registered practical nurse, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**12,886**naloxone
doses
distributed.



**1,015** individuals trained to use naloxone.



community assessment report on toxic drugs released



community partners attended Community Action on Toxic Drugs workshop.



**7** media stories about the Toxic Drugs report.



local, regional, and provincial committees we participate in to share knowledge and coordinate action.

#### Community assessment and next steps



In February 2024, APH hosted a Community Action on Toxic Drugs Workshop which brought partners from a variety of different sectors to learn about programs and services available in Algoma and strategize on improving health outcomes in our communities. The workshop was part of an ongoing community assessment aimed at understanding how the current toxic drug crisis has impacted the region and identifying next steps for a community response.

The final report <u>Toxic Drugs in Algoma: Community Assessment and Next Steps</u> centres the voices of people with lived and living experience and the partners who support them. It highlights the need for cross-sector collaboration to close system gaps, improve care, and build supportive, respectful communities.

## Infectious Diseases





- Infectious syphilis rates have risen since 2019, with Algoma's 2024 rate remaining above the provincial average at 48.4 cases per 100,000 people.
- APH supports infection prevention and control (IPAC) in our community through monitoring of reportable diseases to inform public health action, case and contact management of reportable diseases, access to testing and treatment for priority populations, inspection of facilities to protect the public, and supporting facilities and partners throughout Algoma in creating environments that prevent infection and outbreaks
- Across the program, there are public health inspectors, public health nurses, a nurse practitioner, a registered practical nurse, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



86

inspections completed of licensed daycares.



232

inspections completed of personal service settings.



42

inspections completed in congregate living settings.



70

mosquito traps from **14** Algoma sites were tested for West Nile Virus; **2** cases reported in the past 10 years.



57

ticks processed for Lyme disease; **9** cases of Lyme disease over the last 10 years.



261

rabies investigations were completed, including exposure assessments and treatment when needed; there were no human rabies cases in the past 10 years.

## Building healthy careers together: partnering with Sault College

We've had the opportunity to connect with students in Sault College's **Child Care and Personal Service (e.g., hair salons, nails, tattoos, etc)** programs to help prepare them for their future careers. All essential tools for creating safer environments for these areas are taught.

Sessions focused on hand hygiene, cleaning, disinfection, and regulatory requirements — building student confidence while fostering strong partnerships with APH.

#### Vector-borne partnership with the University of Guelph

Algoma Public Health partnered with the Canadian Lyme Sentinel Network (CaLSeN), part of the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network (CLyDRN).

APH conducted tick dragging at five Algoma sites to collect Ixodes scapularis and environmental data (e.g., soil moisture, canopy cover, leaf litter). Results are shared with CaLSeN, contributing to Canada's first coordinated national surveillance effort for tickborne diseases

## Infectious Diseases





859

cases of reportable diseases managed by APH - **45%** of these cases were for STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis).



#### 24

syphilis point of care testing opportunities provided throughout Algoma (8 community-based events and 16 drop-in days at APH's Sault Ste. Marie office).



64

point of care tests for syphilis completed.



**31** congregate living settings (CLS) partners engaged with APH's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Team (e.g., retirement homes, group homes, shelters, etc.):



Elliot Lake and area: 6

· Central and East Algoma: 4

· North Algoma: 3



**87** IPAC services provided to CLS partners throughout Algoma (e.g., IPAC education or training, review of IPAC policies and procedures, review of outbreak management plans, support to implement IPAC best practices, etc.):

- **55%** of services provided in Sault Ste. Marie
- 30% in North Algoma
- 15% in East Algoma

#### APH participates in the Syphilis Point of Care Rapid Testing and Immediate Treatment research study (SPRITE)

Infectious syphilis rates continue to rise in Algoma and across Ontario, with higher risk among underserved populations such as people who are street-involved, use drugs, or identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

To improve access to testing and treatment for these communities, Algoma Public Health joined the SPRITE study in 2024. Funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and Public Health Ontario, SPRITE involves seven public health units across the province. APH hosted successful community-based syphilis point-of-care testing events by working with people with lived and living experience and community partners, including the HIV & AIDS Resource Program, Wawa Food Bank, and the Elliot Lake Beehive (Canadian Mental Health Association). These partners played a key role in helping to promote these community-based events.

## **Food Safety**

GOAL: To prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness in Algoma.

- From 2020-2024, the average rate of food-borne illnesses in Algoma was 34 cases per 100,000 people (42 cases in 2024).
- APH helps prevent local and new risks of food-borne illness, to reduce the number of people who get sick from food, and partners with the community to promote food safety.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



**26** food handler courses offered:

- Sault Ste. Marie: 22
- Elliot Lake: 2
- Wawa: 2



**97** food safety complaints were reviewed within 24 hours



1,057 food inspections:

- Sault Ste. Marie: **793**
- Blind River: **72**
- Elliot Lake: **75**
- Wawa: **117**



**559** food handlers certified:

Sault Ste Marie: 474

Blind River: 8 Elliot Lake: 17 Wawa: 30



**186** temporary event food permits issued:

- · Sault Ste. Marie: 93
- Blind River: 35Flliot Lake: 18
- Elliot Lake: 18
- · Wawa: 40



Food safety campaign:

- 704 entries
- 942 engagements
- 1,304 webpage views

#### Helping newcomers learn about food safety

Public Health Inspectors partnered with the New to the Sault program to help newcomers learn safe food handling and storage. By attending events and offering practical, culturally relevant advice, inspectors made food safety information clear, accessible, and easy to apply.

#### Home-based kitchens



Home-based kitchens are becoming more common in the Algoma region. Public health inspectors offer preopening checks and advice. APH's website explains the requirements and makes it easy for home-based kitchen business owners to connect with a public health inspector for a home kitchen inspection permit.

## Safe Water

**GOAL**: To prevent or reduce the burden of water-borne illness related to drinking and recreational water in Algoma.



- From 2020-2024, the average rate of water-borne illnesses in Algoma was **12 cases per 100,000** people **(15 cases in 2024)**.
- APH helps reduce the incidence of water-borne illnesses in Algoma and protect the public through a multi-barrier approach that includes monitoring water quality to inform public health action, supporting operators of drinking water systems and promoting public water safety.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



#### Safe drinking water campaign

In 2024, Algoma Public Health launched a social media campaign focused on safe drinking water. The campaign raised awareness about how to stay safe when drinking water—at home, while camping, or travelling in the region.

Through interactive posts, quizzes, and easy-to-share content, we encouraged public engagement and made water safety information more accessible. We also updated the drinking water section of our website to better support the public and small drinking water system operators with clear tools and resources.



- 222 contest entries
- 444 likes, shares, and comments on social media



**35** beaches inspected.



**123** inspection

inspections of the 43 pools & spas in Algoma.



drinking water advisories issued.



60

private drinking water system consultations completed.

## Additional training to better support the 255 small drinking water systems (SDWS) across Algoma

Algoma has large rural areas and unorganized territories. Rural and unorganized territories have more SDWS compared to larger urban areas which have access to municipal water systems. To ensure safe water is available to the public through SDWS, four public health inspectors (PHIs) attended a SDWS course which increased understanding of the operation of a SDWS. This included information on drinking water sources and treatment requirements as well as providing PHIs with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with a variety of water treatment and testing equipment commonly used.

# **Healthy Environments**



**GOAL**: To reduce exposure to health hazards and promote the development of healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks, including the impacts of a changing climate in Algoma.

- Over the last 10 years, climate change has increased how often we experience extreme heat and this is expected to continue to increase by 2030.
- The increased number of wildfires impacts air quality across Canada; poor air quality is associated with more Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease-related emergency department visits.
- APH addresses health risks, monitors climate change data to guide public health actions and reduces health hazards through health promotion.
- Across the program area there are public health inspectors, an environmental assistant, a health promotion specialist, and clerical support.



health hazards investigated (e.g., sewage, pests, indoor/outdoor air quality).



community partners engaged in preseason heat outreach.



social media alerts for weather events issued.



heat event emergency plan developed for Algoma.



4
PurpleAir Sensors
installed:
East Algoma: 3
North Algoma: 1

#### **Expanding air quality monitoring across Algoma**



PurpleAir sensors have been installed to support health in a changing climate.

In partnership with Meteorological Services of Canada, Algoma Public Health is helping fill air quality data gaps by installing low-cost PurpleAir sensors in areas without existing monitoring. These sensors track fine particulate matter in real time, giving communities timely information to make healthier decisions—especially during wildfire season.

Following municipal consultations in 2023, four sensors were installed in 2024, with more planned as availability grows.

# Foundational Standards





- The Foundational Standards include population health assessment, effective public health practice, health equity and emergency management; these standards guide all public health work at APH.
- The Foundations and Strategic Support Team (FASST) and the Communications Team at APH support the agency in integrating the foundational standards into all programs, and carry out agency-wide projects.
- Across these teams, there are planning and evaluation specialists, a research and policy advisor, an Indigenous engagement facilitator, a data analyst, an epidemiologist, a health equity nurse, and a communications coordinator.



266

agency requests for FASST support completed (e.g., support with literature reviews, report writing, data collection, surveys, ethics, evaluations, and Indigenous engagement).



87

media requests
responded to, helping
to share important
public health
information with our
communities.



12

municipal emergency planning meetings attended; APH also co-led **3** community training sessions and led **4** emergency planning exercises.



60%

of employees attended live smudging and cultural safety training, with recordings available for those unable to attend.



102

partners attended the launch of the Community Health Profile with **14** news stories published.



#### **Community Health Profile**

Algoma Public Health released our updated <u>Community Health Profile (CHP)</u> in 2024. This profile is a fulsome population health assessment of our communities, developed using over 60 data sources and 2000 indicators for demographics, social determinants of health, mortality, morbidity, health behaviors, health services and health and wellness. The CHP contains important health data for the region that can be useful in practice and for organizational planning.

# Foundational Standards



#### Maamwesying Ontario Health Team and Algoma Public Health sign collaboration agreement



In 2024, Maamwesying Ontario Health Team and Algoma Public Health signed a formal agreement to work together in support of Indigenous health and well-being. Through this partnership, both organizations are committed to creating culturally safe spaces in the health system and ensuring that Indigenous individuals and families can access the care they need, when they need it.

This agreement reflects a shared commitment to reconciliation, health equity, and Indigenous-led approaches to care and public health.



Algoma Public Health is honoured to become a collaborative partner to walk alongside Maamwesying in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

Maamwesying's leadership demonstrates the importance of selfdetermination and placing Indigenous health in Indigenous hands. Working

together, we can pool our collective strengths to advance health promotion, protect against disease and injury, and embrace inclusive strategies that prioritize health equity for all.

- Dr. Jennifer Loo, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of Algoma Public Health.

#### Honouring Indigenous Languages, art, and relationships

In 2024, we worked alongside Indigenous partners to create more welcoming and culturally safe spaces across our offices. Guided by the Talking Together to Improve Health principles—respect, commitment, trust, and self-determination—this project brought Indigenous languages and artwork into our public health spaces as a visible reflection of our shared journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.



We are grateful to Language Carrier and Elder Barb Nolan for providing Anishinaabemowin translations and to Missanabie Cree Cultural Language Facilitator Matthew Wesley  $L\Omega^{\circ}$  for providing Ililimowin translations ( $\Delta C = \Delta^{\circ}$  Cree language).

Ceremonies were held at each APH office with contributing artists and Indigenous partners to honour the artwork and the relationships it represents. These efforts reflect APH's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, reducing health inequities, and supporting Indigenous-led approaches to health and wellness.

# 2024 Funding of Local Public Health



Municipal Levies District of Algoma	\$ 4,440,568
Public Health Funding Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care	\$ 13,874,568
Community Health Funding	
Ministry of Children & Social Services, North East Local Health Integration Network,	
Algoma Family Services	\$ 1,518,416
Fees, Other Grants & Recoveries	\$ 641,695

Total for 2024 \$ 20,475,247



#### Financial fact! Did you know...

Local public health is funded by provincial and municipal taxpayer dollars.

In 2024, public health programs and services cost Algoma residents **\$182/person** for the year, or **50 cents/person/day**, based on a **112,764** census population estimate of 2021 for the District of Algoma Health Unit.

# **Connect with Public Health**

### Join the Conversation





@algomahealth

#### **Phone**

**Blind River:** 705-356-2551 *or* 888-356-2551

Elliot Lake: 705-848-2314 or 877-748-2314

**Sault Ste. Marie:** 705-942-4646 *or* 866-892-0172

**Wawa:** 705-856-7208 or 888-211-8074

#### **Email**

contact@algomapublichealth.com

#### Website

algomapublichealth.com

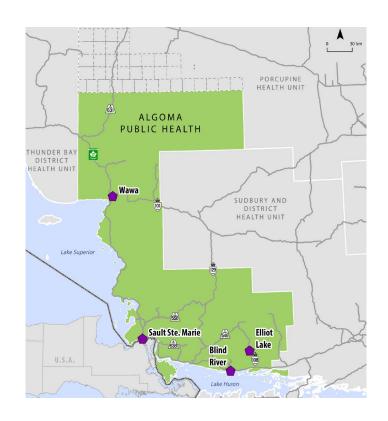


# THANKYOU

Algoma Public Health serves a vast area of over 41,000 square kilometres.

We are grateful for the strong partnerships we have with 21 municipalities, First Nations, Métis, Urban and Rural Indigenous communities, Amish and Mennonite communities, as well as various agencies and organizations across the region.

These collaborations are vital to our mission of promoting and protecting the health of our community and advancing health equity in Algoma.



# PUBLIC HEALTH

# References

#### **Healthy Growth and Development**

- Population health data for Healthy Growth and Development is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: reproductive health. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Reproductive-and-Child-Health/Reproductive">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Reproductive-and-Child-Health/Reproductive</a>

#### **School Health**

- Population health data for School Health is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: nutrition and healthy weights snapshot 2015–2020. Toronto,
   ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights
- Boak, A., & Hamilton, H. A. (2024). Drug use among Ontario students, 1977–2023: Findings from the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS). Toronto, ON: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Available from: https://www.camh.ca/-/media/research-files/osduhs-drug-use-report\_2023.pdf

#### **Oral Health**

- Population health data for Oral Health is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- · Algoma Public Health. Oral Health Information Support System (OHISS) [2023-2024 school years]. Ontario Ministry of Health. [data extracted Feb 2025].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: oral health. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2023 [cited 2023 December 12]. Available from: <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Oral-Health">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Oral-Health</a>

#### **Immunization**

- Population health data for Immunizations is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Immunization data tool: Immunization coverage for measles among 7-year-olds by public health unit, 2013-14 to 2023-24 school year. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; c2025 [cited 2025 Feb 28]. Available from: <a href="https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Immunization-Tool">https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Infectious-Disease/Immunization-Tool</a>

# References

#### **Chronic Disease Prevention & Well-being**

- Population health data for the Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellbeing is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: nutrition and healthy weights snapshot 2015-2020: c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Snapshots: Physical activity snapshot: 2015/16-2020: c2023 [cited 2023 Aug 9]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Data-and-Analysis/Health-Behaviours/Nutrition-and-Healthy-Weights

#### **Substance Use & Injury Prevention**

- Population health data for the Substance Use and Injury Prevention is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Statistics Canada. Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS), Ontario Share File 2019-2020. Ottawa, ON: Government of Canada [producer]; Toronto, ON: Ontario Ministry of Health [distributor].
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Interactive opioid tool. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; c2025 [cited 2025 Feb 28]. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool
- Algoma Public Health (2025). Opioid-related health harms in Algoma. Available from: <a href="https://www.algomapublichealth.com/healthy-living/substance-use-harm-reduction/opioids/local-data/">https://www.algomapublichealth.com/healthy-living/substance-use-harm-reduction/opioids/local-data/</a>

#### **Infectious Disease**

- Population health data for Infectious Diseases is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

#### **Food Safety**

- Population health data for Food Safety is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

# References

#### Safe Water

- Population health data for Safe Water is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Infectious Diseases Query: Algoma Public Health Unit: Case counts and crude rates of reportable diseases by year, 2020-2024. [data extracted 2025 Feb 28].

#### **Healthy Environments**

- Population health data for Healthy Environments is from the source(s) noted below, while all other program data is from internal program monitoring and evaluation at APH over 2024.
- · SAQS Statistics (2018-2024). Air Quality Ontario. 2024.
- · National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) [2013-2023]. Ontario Ministry of Health. IntelliHealth Ontario [data extracted: April 4, 2024].
- Environment and Climate Change Canada. Climate data for a resilient Canada: 2024. Available from: https://climatedata.ca/

#### **Foundational Standards**

Nunn, A., Perri, A.M., Gordon, H., Harding, J.P.D., Loo, C.K.J., & Tuinema, J. Opioid-related deaths in Northern Ontario in the early COVID-19 pandemic period. Can J Public Health (2024). <a href="https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-024-00906-5">https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-024-00906-5</a>



#### Algoma Public Health Statement of Operations April 2025

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Public Health Programs (Calendar)					valialice 70	variance
Description	Current YTD	Current YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Budget		YTD Act to Bud
Public Health Funding, Total	-4,140,302	-4,143,489	-3,187	-12,430,466	0%	100%
Other Funding, Total	0	0	0	0		
Levies, Total	-2,420,110	-2,420,110	0	-4,840,220	0%	100%
Fees & Recoveries, Total	-131,223	-138,700	-7,477	-595,100	-5%	95%
Other Revenue, Total	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL REVENUE	-6,691,634	-6,702,299	-10,664	-17,865,786	0%	100%
Salaries & Wages, Total	3,213,444	3,644,879	431,435	10,934,636	-12%	88%
Benefits, Total	850,921	1,005,751	154,830	2,837,798	-15%	85%
Office Expenses, Total	15,503	20,800	5,297	62,400	-25%	75%
Program Expenses, Total	385,660	317,061	-68,599	922,034	22%	122%
Professional Development, Total	12,595	24,852	12,256	74,555	-49%	51%
Travel Expenses, Total	26,135	56,850	30,715	170,550	-54%	46%
Fees & Insurance, Total	169,820	152,033	-17,787	427,100	12%	112%
Telecommunications, Total	94,756	75,984	-18,772	227,952	25%	125%
Program Promotion, Total	10,933	7,900	-3,033	23,700	38%	138%
Debt Management & Amortization, Total	152,474	152,474	0	457,421	0%	100%
Computer/IT Services, Total	284,538	291,637	7,099	837,912	-2%	98%
Facilities Expenses, Total	332,789	296,576	-36,214	889,727	12%	112%
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,549,569	6,046,797	497,227	17,865,786	-8%	92%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-1,142,065	-655,502	486,563	0		

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (Fiscal)						
Description	Current YTD	Current YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Budget		
TOTAL REVENUE (MCCSS)	-95,068	-95,063	5	-1,140,750	0%	100%
TOTAL EXPENSES	86,953	94,792	7,839	1,140,750	-8%	92%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-8,115	-271	7,844	0		

Fiscal Programs (Non-Public Health)						
Description	Current YTD	Current YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Budget		
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	-13,513	-13,513	0	-262,153	0%	1000
OTHER FUNDING	-38,723	-38,724	-1	-77,447	0%	1009
TOTAL REVENUE	-52,236	-52,237	-1	-339,600	0%	1009
CAPC/CPNP	6,399	6,454	55	77,447	-1%	999
Nurse Practitioner	13,752	13,513	-239	162,153	2%	1029
Stay on Your Feet	8,854	8,333	-521	100,000	6%	1069
TOTAL EXPENSES	29,005	28,300	-705	339,600	2%	1029
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-23,231	-23,937	-706	0		

Fiscal Programs (Public Health)						
PROVINCIAL GRANTS	-26,316	-52,514	-26,198	-630,163	-50%	50%
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,546	51,195	10,649	630,163	-21%	79%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	14,230	-1,319	-15,549	0		

NOTE: Explanations will be provided for variances of 15% and \$15,000 occurring in the first 6 months and variances of 10% and \$10,000 occurring in the final 6 months.

#### Algoma Public Health

**Statement of Revenue** 

April 2025

(Unaudited)

					Variance %	Variance
Description	Current YTD	Current YTD Budget	YTD Budget Variance	Annual Budget	Act to Bud	YTD Act to Bud
MOH Program Funding - Public Health	-3,348,484	-3,373,501	-25,017	-10,120,503	-1%	99%
MOH Program Funding - 100%	-772,622	-769,988	2,634	-2,309,963	0%	100%
MOH Program Funding - One Time	-19,196	0	19,196	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Public Health Funding, Total	-4,140,302	-4,143,489	-3,187	-12,430,466	0%	100%
Levies - Sault Ste. Marie	-1,683,219	-1,683,219	0	-3,366,437	0%	100%
Levies - District	-736,892	-736,892	0	-1,473,783	0%	100%
Levies, Total	-2,420,111	-2,420,111	0	-4,840,220	0%	100%
Program Fees	-10,650	-13,333	-2,683	-40,000	-20%	80%
Land Control Fees	-23,595	-27,000	-3,405	-215,000	-13%	87%
Immunization Recoveries	-33,340	-21,667	11,673	-110,000	54%	154%
Recoveries from Programs	-7,916	-10,033	-2,117	-30,100	-21%	79%
Interest Revenue	-55,722	-66,667	-10,944	-200,000	-16%	84%
Fees & Recoveries, Total	-131,223	-138,700	-7,476	-595,100	-5%	95%
TOTAL REVENUE	-6,691,636	-6,702,300	-10,663	-17,865,786	0%	100%

#### Notes to Financial Statements – April 2025

#### **Reporting Period**

The April 2025 financial reports include four months of financial results for Public Health programming. All other non-funded public health programs are reporting one month of results from the operating year ending March 31, 2026.

#### **Statement of Operations**

#### Summary – Public Health and Non-Public Health Programs

APH has received the 2025 Amending Agreement from the province, which identifies the approved funding allocations for public health programs. The change from 2024 includes a 1% increase to base funding for mandatory cost-shared programs only, as committed to by the Ministry. The annual budget for public health programs has been updated to reflect the Board-approved budget as presented at the November 2024 Board of Health Meeting.

As of April 30, 2025, Public Health calendar programs are reporting a \$487K positive variance, which is driven by a \$11K negative variance in revenues and a \$497K positive variance in expenditures.

#### **Public Health Revenue**

Our Public Health calendar revenues are within 1% variance to budget for 2025.

For the 2025 calendar year, the province instructed public health units to plan for base funding growth of 1%. These anticipated changes are reflected within the updated amending agreement and the Board of Health approved 2025 budget. Catch-up payments related to this additional base funding started to flow in April, and APH anticipates the Public Health funding variance to close by the end of May.

In March 2024, the Ministry confirmed that IPAC Hub funding would continue in the 2024-25 fiscal year and in subsequent years, with ongoing formal planning and funding meetings scheduled to continue. This funding has been provided to hubs across the province to enhance IPAC practices in identified congregate care settings. Formal funding approvals for this initiative were received in early December 2024, which included \$316K in committed base funding through to the 2028/29 fiscal year and the anticipation that any additional program expenditures will be funded via one-time, reasonable funding requests. The 2025/26 IPAC hub budget has been updated to reflect APH's submitted budget for the hub, totalling \$ 630K.

#### **Public Health Expenses**

#### Salaries & Benefits

There is a \$586K positive variance associated with ongoing position vacancies that are actively being recruited for. With several planned leaves having returned to work/expected to return to work, this variance is anticipated to slow in the coming months. APH also received an unplanned \$74K credit related to WSIB in April 2025.

#### **Program Expenses**

There is a \$69K negative variance associated with program expenses. The majority of this identified pressure is driven by demand for our Ontario Senior Dental program (externally sourced professional services for maintenance, preventative and denture services). Once again for 2025, APH submitted a request for increased base funding for this program alongside the 2025 Annual Service plan, which was due to the Ministry on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We continue to service our communities based on demand, considering conversations with the Ministry where APH has been instructed to continue programming as planned, with funding opportunities to continually be made available to address ongoing pressures.

#### Travel Expenses

There is a \$31K positive variance associated with travel expenses based on actual travel that staff have completed and requested reimbursement for as of April 30, 2025. It is suspected that this variance is timing-related only due to a lack of travel during significant severe weather experienced within the district during the first few months of the year. APH will continue to monitor this variance as it relates to any potential savings being realized by staff use of agency-owned vehicles.

#### Facilities Expenses

There is a \$36K negative variance associated with facilities expenses, which is driven by unplanned, significant snow removal in the months of January & February, as well as preparatory consulting work associated with the boiler replacements at 294 Willow Ave.

#### **Financial Position - Balance Sheet**

APH's liquidity position continues to be stable, and the bank has been reconciled as of April 30, 2025. Cash includes \$2.1M in reserve funds.

Long-term debt of \$2.9 million is held by TD Bank @ 1.80% for a 60-month term (amortization period of 120 months) and matures on September 1, 2026. \$170K of the loan relates to the financing of the Elliot

Lake office renovations, which occurred in 2015 with the balance, related to the financing of the 294 Willow Avenue facility located in Sault Ste. Marie. There are no material accounts receivable collection concerns.

## Algoma Public Health

# **Comparative Balance Sheet April 2025**

(Unaudited)

	Current Balance	December 31, 2024
Cash and Investments, Total	5,911,267	4,702,136
Accounts Receivable, Total	1,190,849	1,729,409
Other Assets, Total	366,362	365,259
Fixed Assets, Total	16,559,921	16,559,921
TOTAL ASSETS	24,028,399	23,356,724
Accounts Payable - Province, Total	(2,295,769)	(2,750,849)
Accounts Payable, Total	(1,244,832)	(743,138)
Accrued Liabilities, Total	(3,140,464)	(3,681,471)
Long-term Liabilities, Total	(2,907,234)	(2,907,234)
Other Liabilities, Total	(277,423)	(277,755)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(9,865,721)	(10,360,445)
TOTAL ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	(14,162,677)	(12,996,279)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES	(24,028,399)	(23,356,724)

#### **PLEASE ROUTE TO:**

All Board of Health Members

All Members of Regional Health & Social Service Committees

All Senior Public Health Managers

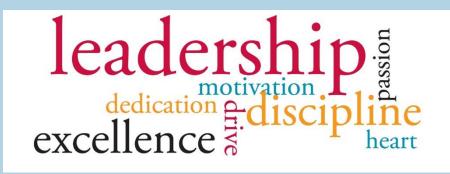
June 20, 2025



### June 2025 InfoBreak

This update is a tool to keep alPHa's Members apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislation, alPHa activities, correspondence, and events. Visit us at alphaweb.org.

**Excerpt from the Annual Report - Chair and Chief Executive Officer Report** 



Over the past year, alPHa remained nimble and strong as the unified voice and trusted advisor on Ontario's local public health system, advancing this work through strategic

partnerships, supporting sustainability, and delivering member services to local public health leaders.

The alPHa Board of Directors, Boards of Health Section, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health Section, and Affiliate Representatives participated, throughout the past year, in various committees, consultations, and at public health tables providing recommendations and advice on the province's Strengthening Public Health initiative, including the Ontario Public Health Standards which are expected to be released in August 2025.

alPHa celebrates the milestones achieved throughout the year such as the highly successful Fall and Winter Symposiums with Section meetings, and several workshops that supported alPHa Members in their respective roles and in the important conversations on the critical role of local public health in Ontario's public health system. These actions included meeting and exceeding targets in the first year of the alPHa Strategic Plan, a strong government relations program, effective participation in Ontario's 2025 Pre-Budget Consultations before the Standing Committee on Finance, and other submissions on key public health issues such as Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs and the Auditor General's report. alPHa has provided keynotes, presentations, and representation at provincial conferences and events such as at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference and its Health Transformation Task Force, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference, and The Ontario Public Health Conference (TOPHC), and others. Additionally, there has been a significant uptake in delivery and requests for presentations such as alPHa's modules on Board of Health Governance and the Social Determinants of Health, a key service offered to alPHa's Members.

This year's developments in the alPHa *Public Health Matters* series of infographics and videos, available in English and French, are excellent and sharable resources for our Members. alPHa's Members' portal – *InfoBreak* – alPHa's monthly newsletter also keeps Members apprised of key submissions, events, activities and opportunities for consultation. Through these and other actions, alPHa continues to provide valued resources and services to its Member Representatives in Ontario's local public health units.

Following the approval of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (Ontario) Operating By-law No. 2, to ensure compliance with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, as part of their governance responsibilities, the alPHa Board of Directors reviewed

and approved alPHa's policies and procedures to align with the By-law and the associated legislation.

alPHa continues to advance local public health through strategic partnerships and collaborations with successful reciprocal relationships. It is an extensive list and includes Ontario's key decision-makers such as the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, who following their in-person appearances at the June 2024 Conference, participated again in alPHa's online Fall Symposium. alPHa continually liaises with Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and his staff, the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario (PHO), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), and others. In addition, through the Affiliate members on the alPHa Board of Directors, alPHa works effectively with associations that represent Ontario's key public health disciplines. Most of all, alPHa celebrates the importance of the existing network of relationships with all of Ontario's local public health agencies. Our work done in collaboration with key partners and within the broader health system results in an upstream approach for a healthier population that contributes to a stronger economy while preserving costly and scarce health care resources.

Looking ahead the view is clear. alPHa, guided by the Strategic Plan, will continue to lead with one unified voice representing its Member constituents in its commitment to influence Ontario's decision-makers to ensure a robust local public health system with ample resources to protect the health of the population.

The success of alPHa is built not only on your support - it also requires a dedicated governance board, complemented by the tremendous work and services provided by alPHa staff. The alPHa Board of Directors continues to give the association a uniquely qualified and unified leadership voice for Ontario's local public health system. alPHa is fortunate to have Board members who so readily volunteer and are passionate about public health. Thank you to each and everyone of the members of the 2024-2025 Board of Directors and the dedicated alPHa staff team.

Whether you are a Board of Health member, a Medical Officer of Health, an Associate Medical Officer of Health, a Chief Executive Officer, or in a senior leadership role, alPHa extends genuine appreciation to you for your valuable contributions to local public health and continued participation in and support for alPHa as it is vital to our shared success in advocating for and in strengthening Ontario's unique, locally based public health system. alPHa as your collective voice, is committed to continuing to work

towards advancing the cause of a resilient and sufficiently resourced local public health system.

Sincerely,

Trudy Sachowski, Chair, and Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer

#### 2025 alPHa Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference recap



The 2025 alPHa Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference was held in Toronto this week and was a great success! The events were sold out and we want to thank all the Members who participated in the workshops, AGM, Conference sessions, and Section Meetings.

Conference materials are available on <u>the website</u>, including the Annual Report, Distinguished Service Awards booklet, and other materials. We will add any presentations to the website as these become available. These will also be featured in the summer issue of *InfoBreak*.

We want to thank <u>Toronto Public Health (TPH)</u> for being the event's co-host. Their event support was greatly appreciated. alPHa would also like to thank <u>Vocalmeet</u> and <u>NaloxOne</u> for being Platinum Sponsors, <u>Esri Canada</u> for being a Gold Sponsor, and <u>Mosey & Mosey</u> and <u>BrokerLink</u> for being Silver Sponsors!









With support from BrokerLink.



# 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference Resources



In August, many alPHa members, particularly from the Boards of Health Section, will be attending AMO's 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference, taking place from August 17-20, in Ottawa. Whether you're an alPHa member attending the conference or participating in a delegation, key resources you can use are below.

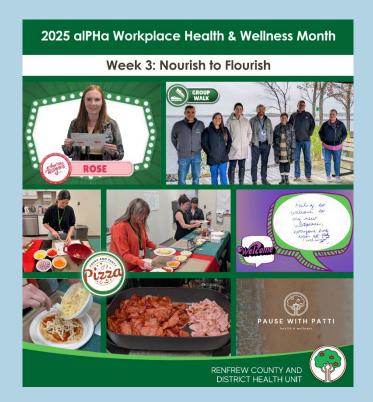
These are alPHa products and submissions that support an adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding envelope for public health programs and services. More can be found in our extensive online <u>correspondence library</u> and <u>Resolutions</u> pages.

- alPHa Letter 2025 Budget May 23, 2025
- alPHa Letter PH Matters Infographic #4 January 28, 2025
- alPHa Submission 2025 Ontario Budget January 20, 2025
- alPHa Deputation Pre-Budget 2025 December 16, 2024
- alPHa Letter OPHS Review Follow-Up June 25, 2024
- alPHa Response 2024 OPHS Review Consultation June 20, 2024
- alPHa Letter 2024 Ontario Budget January 10, 2024

#### 2025 alPHa Workplace Health and Wellness Month recap!



# alPHa Workplace Health and Wellness





Thank you to everyone who participated in alPHa Workplace Health and Wellness last month! We loved seeing your progress, and we hope you were able to take some time for yourselves to address your mental, physical, and social well-being.

alPHa would like to thank Renfrew County and District Health Unit and Durham Region Public Health for their pictures throughout the month!

For more information, and to continue working on your mental, physical, and social well-being, click <u>here</u>.

#### Perceptions Among Health Professionals on Adult Vaccination Programs in Canada Survey



A cross-Canada group of investigators are hoping you will be willing to participate in a research study about adult vaccination programs and coverage in Canada. This 15-20 minute survey is designed to gather insights from healthcare and public health professionals on the state of adult immunization in Canada, perceived barriers to improving vaccine uptake, and the potential value of a simplified life-course vaccination schedule. The survey is available in <a href="English">English</a> and <a href="French">French</a> and will be available until July 20, 2025. Please feel free to share this survey with colleagues who maybe interested in providing input. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Allison McGeer (<a href="Allison.McGeer@sinaihealth.ca">Allison.McGeer@sinaihealth.ca</a>; 416-930-1926) at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Calling all Ontario Boards of Health: Level up your expertise with our training courses designed just for you!



Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and strengthen local public health leadership in Ontario.

#### **BOH Governance training course**

Master public health governance and Ontario's Public Health Standards. You'll learn all about public health legislation, funding, accountability, roles, structures, and much more. Gain insights into leadership and services that drive excellence in your unit.

#### **Social Determinants of Health training course**

Explore the impact of Social Determinants of Health on public health and municipal governments. Understand the context, explore Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examine various SDOH diagrams to better serve your communities.

Reserve your spot for in-person or virtual training now! Visit <u>our website</u> to learn more about the costs for Public Health Units (PHUs). Let's shape a healthier future together.

#### **Boards of Health: Shared Resources**



A resource <u>page</u> 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

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 <a href="mailto:gordon@alphaweb.org">gordon@alphaweb.org</a> 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)
- <u>Legal Matters: Updates for Boards</u>
   <u>of Health</u> (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
- <u>Public Appointee Role and</u>
   <u>Governance Overview</u> (for Provincial Appointees to BOH)
- Ontario Boards of Health by Region
- <u>List of Units sorted by Municipality</u>
- <u>List of Municipalities sorted by</u>
   Health Unit
- Map: Boards of Health Types
- NCCHPP 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 Notfor-Profit Corporations Act

#### 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 <a href="here">here</a>. These documents are publicly available and can be shared widely.

alPHa Letter - Tobacco Settlement Investments

#### **Public Health Ontario (PHO)**



#### **PHO Launches New Ontario Vector-Borne Disease Tool**

PHO's new <u>Ontario Vector-Borne Disease Tool</u> offers comprehensive surveillance data on vector-borne diseases (VBDs) in Ontario, presenting data from multiple surveillance systems and partners. The Tool consolidates data from several existing PHO resources into a single platform, offering a modern, intuitive experience with enhanced geographic functionality and interactive data visualizations.

Key features and uses of the Tool:

• **Monitor trends:** Track weekly and year-to-date case counts for all reportable vectorborne diseases, including West Nile virus illness, Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Powassan virus infection, at both the provincial and public health unit levels.

- **Geographic analysis:** Visualize mosquito and tick surveillance data, including species distribution and positive test results, using interactive maps with customizable layers.
- **Risk assessment:** Access interactive Blacklegged Tick established risk area maps, to better support public health professionals and clinicians in their management and case investigations of tick-borne diseases.
- More frequent updates: Data are available from 2014 to present. Weekly updates from May through October for human case and mosquito data, will support enhanced surveillance during peak vector activity.

For more detailed information about the tool, explore PHO's <u>news post</u>.

#### **New and Updated Measles Resources**

# New Resource: Routine and Outbreak-related Measles Immunization Schedules

As Ontario continues to experience a measles outbreak, PHO has released a <u>new</u> resource which outlines routine and outbreak-related measles immunization schedules in Ontario and the public health units (PHUs) that have implemented a measles outbreak immunization strategy. It also includes key immunization principles for measles vaccination and a map of PHUs that have adopted the measles outbreak immunization strategy.

#### **Updated: Measles in Ontario**

PHO's updated Measles in Ontario report provides the most current trends on measles activity in the province, with a focus on the current multi-jurisdictional outbreak.

Ongoing measles transmission in Ontario is impacting multiple public health units, check out their measles exposures webpage for more information.

Check out all of PHO's measles resources on their dedicated webpage.

#### **Recent Knowledge Products**

- Mpox in Ontario
- Clinical Syndromes/Conditions with Required Level of Precautions (from Best Practices for Routine Practices and Additional Precautions Appendix N)
- Staff Influenza Immunization Coverage Among Hospitals and Long-Term Care Homes in Ontario

#### **Events**

Be sure to keep an eye on PHO's **Events** page for their upcoming events.

#### **Recent Presentations**

- PHO Rounds: The SickKids Immunization InfoLine
- Novel Aesthetic Treatments Exosomes: What we Know so Far
- PHO Rounds: Can a Voluntary Isolation Centre Reduce Secondary Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Households: A Matched Cohort Study
- PHO Rounds: Anti-Racist Frameworks to Advance Public Health Practice

#### Ontario Public Health Directory: May 2025 update



The <u>Ontario Public Health Directory</u> has been updated and is available on the alPHa website. Please ensure you have the latest version, which has been dated as of **May 9**, **2025**. To view the file, log into the alPHa website.

#### **Upcoming DLSPH Events and Webinars**

# Dalla Lana

## School of Public Health

- CanPath Synthetic Dataset Workshop (Jun. 24)
- Achieving Greater Cultural Safety in Mental Health Services through Research and Traditional Knowledge (Jun. 25)
- <u>LEPH2025</u>: The Seventh International Conference on Law Enforcement and <u>Public Health</u> (Jul. 13-16)

#### **BrokerLink Insurance**



Please note, alPHa's partnership with Aviva is no longer in place. All Members who are with Aviva are encouraged to explore insurance with BrokerLink.

In partnership with alPHa, <u>BrokerLink</u> is proud to offer preferred home and auto insurance rates for members, <u>get a quote today</u>. With the warmer spring weather, the snow is melting and it's just about that time of year to enjoy all your favourite outdoor activities. Check out our spring maintenance tips to get your recreational toys ready for the summer 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 <a href="mailto:info@alphaweb.org">info@alphaweb.org</a>.

#### **News Releases**

The most up to date news releases from the Government of Ontario can be accessed here.





Our mailing address is: PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood Toronto, ON M6C 4A7 Canada

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