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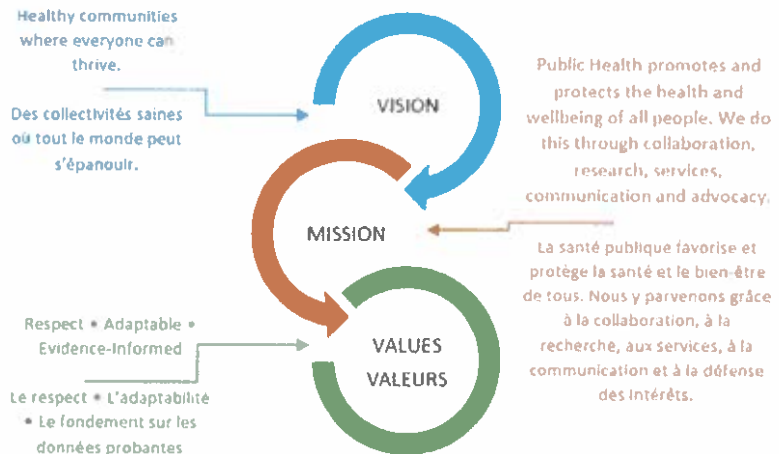


Report to the Board of Health

Year-End Report – January to December 2023

Report Content

- [THU in Action: Our People - Our Stories](#)
- [HR Update](#)



Introduction

During 2023, Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) staff continued to move forward on routinizing COVID-19 response work and recovery. THU completed an after-action review with core IMS members. After-action reviews are an essential component of the recovery phase of the emergency management cycle. They are a qualitative review conducted after the end of an emergency response to identify best practices, gaps, and lessons learned. Learnings from this review were integrated into the emergency management situational assessment and will be drawn from in related operational plans.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused severe backlogs in public health programming and planning that all THU teams continue to navigate. This has, however, provided an opportunity for renewed reflection and prioritization of our programs. In 2023, we began the work of integrating a public health program pyramid into our planning cycle. The pyramid has guided staff involved in program planning to identify critical, essential, aspirational, and legacy work and to think critically about gaps and opportunities. We also have begun the work of critically examining the planning cycle and its associated tools to best support staff in implementing the foundational standards.

COVID-19 also showed THU how synergetic our connection to the Porcupine Health Unit is and a joint team between the health units have begun the work of initiating a voluntary merger with the assistance of Dr. Marlene Spruyt. Our school teams collaborated on a variety of projects, the environmental health teams completed joint training exercises, and health promoters connected on common initiatives such as the Icelandic Prevention Model.

Additional highlights of Timiskaming Health Unit work from January to December of 2023 are further described below.

In the Spotlight and On Our Radar

Violence

Violence is recognized as a pervasive and destructive force in society.¹ It has devastating mental and physical impacts on the victims, witnesses, families, and society at large. It can be manifested as gender-based violence, elderly abuse, bullying, community violence, etc. In 2018, the topic of Violence was added to the Ontario Public Health Standards, acknowledging it as a public health priority and requiring boards of health to address it by assessing risks and protective factors and collaborating with local partners to build on community assets.

THU has developed its first operational plan focused on the topic of violence for 2024. Work for this year includes continuing with the collaborative partnerships described below as well as the development of a situational assessment. The situational assessment will collate available data and identify gaps in data related to this topic to inform further program planning.

Timiskaming Health Unit is a member of three community collaborations that address violence prevention. **The Timiskaming Elder Abuse Task Force** is a network of service providers, committed to improving the wellness of seniors within the district. They promote advocacy, education, and prevention of elder abuse issues. The **Timiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee** maximizes the capacity of service providers to respond to abused women's needs, improve access to an integrated service delivery system, and ultimately increase the safety and overall well-being for abused women and their children. Through this collaboration, community paramedics have been piloting a *violence screening question*. The screening tool is a practical resource for professionals to help aid in the prevention of violence against women. Asking the question helps professionals identify and respond to persons experiencing abuse or violence in their relationships. Once the results of this pilot are evaluated, we can modify if needed, and expand implementation with other partners across the district. This committee also recently advocated for provincial and municipal partners to declare violence as an epidemic.

Community Safety Well-Being plans are provincially legislated for municipalities in Ontario. Timiskaming's plan includes working collaboratively across sectors towards the goal of making Timiskaming a safer, more inclusive, and connected community where all residents thrive. One priority area identified by the stakeholders is community safety, which includes gender-based violence. Another priority area is housing, including transitional and supportive housing, which have been identified as important barriers to leaving a violent partner.

1 Canadian Public Health Agency. (n.d.). *Violence in Society: A Public Health Perspective*. <https://www.cpha.ca/violence-society-public-health-perspective>



Timiskaming Health Unit in Action

Our people – our stories.

Foundational Standards

Population Health Assessment and Surveillance:

Population health assessment and surveillance is an essential public health function to support local public health practice to respond effectively to current and evolving issues and contribute to the health and well-being of our population. The list below highlights some of this work:

Work Completed:

- Supported outbreaks with data analysis, case definitions, and data entry guidance.
- Shared data and analyses on a variety of public health topics.
- Professional development: Specialist Knowledge Translation Training and Power BI training.
- Supported RPPAs with data requests regarding program planning and other projects.
- Supported regular updates of opioid surveillance dashboard, data tracking process, Early Warning Surveillance System thresholds, and opioid summary report.
- Re-vamped the THU COVID-19 webpage to create a new Respiratory Illnesses page.
- Development of an air quality surveillance system to monitor air quality on a biweekly basis during spring and summer.

Variance:

- Knowledge exchange plan was not completed in 2024, deferred to 2025.
- Healthy environment projects deferred to 2024 due to staff turnover.
- Work on climate change indicators to be completed in 2024 Q1 due to staff turnover and delay from Public Health Ontario.
- Infant Feeding Surveillance System report was deferred to Q1 of 2024 due to staff turnover.
- Preconception health deferred to 2024 due to staff turnover and prioritization of Perinatal Mood Disorders project.
- Some substance data updates were not prioritized and deferred to 2024; small data requests were fulfilled.

Health Equity:

The following section highlights local public health work in 2023 toward reducing health inequities that includes assessing and reporting on the local impact of health inequities and identifying local strategies, modifying and orienting public health interventions, and health equity analysis, policy development, and advancing healthy public policies.

Work Completed:

- Provided support to program teams to integrate the health equity lens into the program planning cycle.

- Completed a plan to implement sociodemographic data collection at THU but paused launch due to the ministry developing standard provincial indicators.
- Supported professional development at THU by co-presenting a learning session with Public Health Ontario on Health Equity.
- Created repository of resources for community engagement and priority population engagement to promote participatory approaches.
- Supported THU in becoming a Living Wage employer and accompanying communications and promotional materials.
- Completed a BOH presentation on Health Equity in public health.
- Researched and added a mandatory health equity training component to THU staff orientation.

Variance:

- Research into health equity indicators was completed but indicators for THU were not finalized.

Effective Public Health Practice:

Effective public health practice requires THU staff to apply skills in evidence-informed decision-making, research, knowledge exchange, program planning and evaluation, and communication, with a continued focus on quality and transparency. The section below captures 2023 activity highlights for program planning, evaluation, and evidence-informed decision making as well as for knowledge exchange and continuous improvement.

Work Completed:

- Several program plans were updated to inform the 2024 budget process.
- THU's Professional Practice Council launched OceanMD, an extension of our OSCAR EMR. OceanMD enables THU to send emailed appointment reminders, secure eMessages, and to join the Ontario eReferral network. Work to operationalize and fully integrate these functionalities is ongoing.
- Launched a pilot group of twelve staff taking OnCore training, a collaborative, peer-led public health foundations course.
- Finalized THU ethics policy and related supporting documents.
- Finalized THU evaluation protocol.
- Finalized the Grand Rounds procedure.
- THU hired a practicum student to support Food and Nutrition work.

Variance:

- Updating planning tools has been initiated but not finalized.
- Strengthening CQI practices continues to be a goal for the team but is deprioritized due to capacity.

Emergency Management:

Effective emergency management ensures that boards of health are ready to cope with and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services.

Work Completed:

- Administered the After-Action Review of the COVID-19 pandemic and wrote a report summarizing findings.
- Completed a Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA).
- Completed a situational assessment for emergency management and integrated learnings from the aforementioned reports.
- Supported the launch of PurpleAir monitors across the district, partnering with ECCC and municipalities.

Examples of Knowledge Products created with the Foundational Standards Team in 2023:

Team	Product name
CD/IP	Completed and submitted City of Temiskaming Shores marina consultation briefing note NE SOYF evaluation report Community Fridge Pilot Project evaluation
HGD	In-person Prenatal Classes Evaluation Report Breastfeeding Peer Support Group: Implementation Summary Temiskaming Children's Services Planning Table Self-assessment summary report. Perinatal Mood Disorders Universal Screening Research Strategy
FS	Grand Rounds year-end summary Fulfilled several data requests from external partners such as: births by quarter, opioid data, harm reduction, falls, food security, and population projections Cryptosporidiosis and pertussis data summaries Ultraviolet Radiation data analysis

Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being

In 2023, in addition to the work described below, THU's Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being program team contributed to education and awareness about the importance of this chronic disease prevention work, through Health Promotion Ontario's [White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion](#) and a briefing note for THU's Board of Health on [Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention](#). The team also contributed to Public Health Ontario's work by reviewing two Focus on Reports published in 2023: [Salutogenesis and Health Promotion](#) and [Foundations of Health Promotion](#).

Active Living:

Work Completed:

- Refreshed the Share the Road communications campaign and offered signage to municipalities at no cost to them. Distributed new signs in the southern part of the district and replaced damaged signs.
- Participated in the City of Temiskaming Shores Road Safety Education Day along with community partners (200+ attendees). Set up booth with active travel information including cycling safety, pedestrian safety, and share the road resources. We also provided helmet fit demonstrations and helmets to anyone who needed them.
- Community involvement at Englehart's Day in the Park. THU staff set up a tent where the Walk 'N Roll program provided a scavenger hunt and the HGD staff provided car seat resources. Over 400 people attended the Saturday event.
- Coordinated Temiskaming Shores Community Bike Festival. This year's event gave 115 bicycles and helmets to new owners.
- Supported Town of Kirkland Lake with Bike Month activities.
- Collaborated with 3 schools on school zone safety assessments.

- Completed pick-up planner for one school in partnership with school administration and parent council.
- Promoted pedestrian skills campaign during iWalk Month (October). Total 8 schools participated (3 FR, 5 EN—1621 students).
- Delivered cycling skills training in schools: bike rodeos at 2 schools, updated resources for teachers and classroom package.
- Developed [Board of Health Briefing Note on Physical Literacy](#).

Variance:

- Did not collaborate as planned with City of Temiskaming Shores on active transportation initiatives; City did not hire a student in this role for 2023.
- Did not initiate bicycle festival in Kirkland Lake due to staffing capacity. Will revisit in 2024.
- Did not develop AST toolkit for educators—revisiting the utility of this intervention.
- Pedestrian skills training pilot moved to February 2024 due to limited staff capacity.
- Implementation of new cycling skills facilitators postponed to 2024 due to limited staff capacity.
- Shifted planned activities to promote affordable access to recreation with early planning to address physical literacy. To be continued in 2024.
- Updated situational assessment not completed as planned. To complete in 2024.

Healthy Eating:

Work Completed:

- Delivered four virtual presentations to youth at Youth Job Connection, topic: healthy eating (reach=57).
- [Blender Bike](#) borrowed four times in 2023—Extendicare, Teck Pioneer Residence, Kirkland Lake Family Health Team, and EarlyON.
- Completed a qualitative research project to explore perceptions of food insecurity among community partners.
- Launched and evaluated the Community Fridge Pilot Project in partnership with Temiskaming's Community Food Action Network and Temiskaming Shores Public Library.
- Contributed content to municipal newsletter (Community Fridge, Food Insecurity) and Health Care Provider newsletter (weight stigma/bias, food insecurity, the Code).
- Provided nutrition related content for THU Youth Instagram.
- Provided a virtual presentation to the Age Friendly Committee about eating well, food labels, and the community fridge (25 participants).
- Precepted one student from Northern Ontario Dietetic Internship Program for 6 weeks.
- Presented to a group of youth 15 to 29 from Youth Job Connection (YJC) on "how to eat well on a budget": 20 participants.
- Completed 2022 Nutritious Food Basket data analysis and dissemination as part of Nutrition Month (social media, [THU website](#), [infographic](#), [report](#), [BOH briefing note](#) and [presentation](#), [media release](#), email blast, THU webinar).
- Participated in launch of Temiskaming Shores Community Fridge Project in collaboration with the Community Food Action Network in Temiskaming Shores. A number of community partners attended the event. THU managed the social media accounts, supported the project implementation, created social media posts, resources and materials. January to June 2023.
- Offered training to 4 community partners on how to use the blender bike during community events (Extendicare, EarlyON, TPR, KL FHT).

- Provided content for THU's Youth Instagram account: Nutrition Month; youth engagement raising awareness around diet culture and healthy eating habits such as encouraging the consumption of fruits and vegetables, making water the drink of choice, etc.
- Provided support to concession operator and shared healthy eating resources for a hockey tournament.
- Maintained the Timiskaming Talks Nutrition page to provide evidence-based and accurate nutrition information to promote the health and well-being of the Timiskaming population.
- Drafted content and compiled resources to promote the 2023 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week.
- Contributed to THU targeted newsletters: content to raise awareness about the community fridge and food insecurity in municipal newsletter, content to educate about weight stigma and bias, food insecurity, and the international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes and formula marketing in health care provider newsletter.

Variance: Most variance here due to limited RD capacity (only 1/2 positions in place)

- [Healthy Eating in Recreation Settings](#) work not completed in 2023 due in part to concession closure and in part to RD capacity limitations.
- [Local food map](#) not maintained due to limited RD capacity.
- Timiskaming Talks Nutrition FB Page on hold due to limited RD capacity.

Mental Health Promotion:

Work Completed:

- Created comprehensive inventory of community assets.
- Promoted 2023 Mental Health Week Promote Mental Health Awareness Week. [Public online event](#) with Adele Lafrance with 125 participants. Developed a library toolkit used by 9 libraries used across Timiskaming and Porcupine districts.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#) on mental health promoting policies and [letter of support](#) for Act for Mental Health Campaign.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#) on psychological health and safety in the workplace and endorsement of adoption of the National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace to promote and protect the psychological health and safety of Timiskaming Health Unit staff.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences overview provided to THU nurses at internal training event.
- Co-facilitated Trauma and Violence Informed Care Training with THU harm reduction, sexual health, and reception staff.
- Implemented [Caring Adults Matter](#) communications campaign in partnership with EarlyON collaborative.

Variance:

- Internal Psychological Health and Safety policy review delayed to align with updated Employee Wellness and Engagement Committee who will be facilitating implementation of this initiative.
- Trauma and violence informed care training for THU staff supporting harm reduction and sexual health programs delayed to Q4.
- Development of a primer to support implementation of mental health promoting language in all THU program areas not yet addressed due to other activities being given higher priority.
- Community asset mapping project delayed, now collaborating with Centre de sante du Temiskaming to complete in shareable format.
- External workshop with partners on Trauma and Violence-Informed Care postponed to 2024.

- Work to promote social prescribing and other social connections related interventions in Timiskaming delayed to 2024.
- Support for workplace wellness including promoting Psychological Health and Safety Standard and webinars did not occur due to staffing limitations. To be revisited in 2024.
- Interventions to support life promotion and suicide prevention delayed to 2024.

Healthy Built Environment:

Work Completed:

- Developed and submitted a response to the City of Temiskaming Shores' Waterfront Marina consultation.
- THU staff developed a presentation for local municipal councils to increase awareness of the role of local public health and the ways in which municipal governments shape health. The presentation has been offered to all local municipalities.
- THU staff co-presented with a Board of Health member to the City of Temiskaming Shores in November 2023. THU staff also developed and circulated, to all municipal staff and council members, a quarterly newsletter titled [Health for All](#). Past editions can be found at this link.
- A [page](#) has been added to THU's website specific to the topic of municipalities and public health.
- Implemented [Community Placemaking MicroGrant program](#). 36 applications received and grants provided to 14 local projects.

Variance:

- Delay in completion of submission to Town of Cobalt Official Plan update pending response from consultant.
- Work to develop Health in All Policies (HiAP) primer series postponed to 2024 due to staffing capacity challenges.
- Situational assessment on this topic not completed as planned. To complete in 2024.

Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP):

The OSDCP remained very busy throughout 2023 seeing seniors within our district who qualify for dental care services.

Work Completed:

- In 2023, the OSDCP saw 149 new clients in the program.
- As of December 31, 2023, we had 13 new clients on a waitlist. We had 27 clients in NL and 13 clients in KL on the recall list.
- The one-time funding received (\$54,000) helped our waitlist. We hired a temporary part-time hygienist and an internal dental assistant was moved to a temporary dental hygienist position. These positions will be maintained until March 31, 2024.
- In December, Service Letter Agreements were sent to our dentists and denturist to renew their support and services related to OSDCP.

Variance:

- We were unsuccessful in recruiting dental assistant vacancy (mat leave).
- Mid-year, we received two letters from local dentist offices expressing concern and frustration with the fees associated to the program. Noting this issue is well known across the province. If local dentists stop

participating in the OSDCP, seniors within our district will see longer wait times for services. This could also mean seniors could end up needing to be referred to services out of our district.

OSDCP 2023	2022 Total	Q1 Total	Q2 Total	Q3 Total	Q4 Total	2023 Total
Applied at THU	232	77	52	82	49	272
Applied Online	19	11	0	6	9	26
Unique Seniors Served at THU	182	64	68	46	84	262
Total OSDCP Preventive Appointments at THU	197	74	68	50	88	280
Unique Seniors Served by Providers	554	158	183	189	156	697
Total OSDCP Appointments by Providers	686	238	38	237	214	901

Substance Use and Injury Prevention

Alcohol and Drug Use Health, Harm Reduction Program and Ontario Naloxone Program:

Work Completed:

- [BOH briefing note](#) and endorsement of the implementation of the Icelandic Prevention Model as a local strategy to reduce youth substance use.
- [Board of Health briefing note](#): Mandatory labels on alcohol containers and endorsement, in principle, of Bill S254 – An Act to Amend the Food and Drug Act (Warning Labels on Alcoholic Beverages) and Motion M-61 A National Warning Label Strategy for Alcoholic Products.
- Launched [@YouthTimiskaming](#) on Instagram. The goal of the account is to empower and engage youth 12-25 in the THU region to live healthier lives through sharing credible, non-judgemental health messaging and resources. (183 followers as of August 2023).
- Initiated Planet Youth Timiskaming, local district-wide implementation of Icelandic Prevention Model as part of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy. Includes development of local Steering Committee.
- Provided a short presentation as part of the [Youth Substance Use Prevention Webinar](#) in partnership with Drug Free Kids Canada, Northeastern Catholic District School Board, and Porcupine Health Unit. The webinar provided information about cannabis, alcohol, and vaping, as well as tools to empower caregivers to have conversations about substance use with their children.
- Brought two CSCT locations on board for Harm Reduction supply distribution and two sharps collection bins.
- Established and hosted first Community of Practice (Knowledge Network HR/TX) meeting. The Knowledge Network provides a virtual venue for presentations and knowledge exchange for service providers and partners working in harm reduction and treatment related to substance use. Guest speakers share their knowledge and experience, followed by an opportunity for all participants to provide local updates, discuss challenges and receive support from their peers.
- Completed inventory of local substance use prevention initiatives.
- Continued to implement District-wide Harm Reduction Program.
- Launched Timiskaming's [Overdose Early Warning Surveillance System](#) including bad drug form (media release and earned media from French CBC, CTV, local radio and newspaper).
- Held second Knowledge Network meeting. Topic: AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area.

- Facilitated 2023 [Overdose Awareness Day](#) awareness campaign and attended local events in Temiskaming Shores, Englehart, Kirkland Lake.
- Grand Rounds presentation on Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS).
- Ongoing coordination of Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy, co-chair of Steering Committee, chair of three pillar groups.
- Facilitated [anti-stigma training](#) for care providers, in partnership with CSCT and CMHA-CT: 2 English training sessions (50 attendees) and 1 French (28 attendees). All events were 2 hours long and virtual.
- Promoted information to influence parental attitudes and behaviour related to substance use (local vaping campaign, workshops/webinars from various sources).
- Initiated consultant-supported project to develop a mobile harm reduction outreach program for Timiskaming.
- Successfully applied to be part of the [Our Health Box](#) research project in partnership with CSCT in Temiskaming Shores. Program to launch in spring 2024.
- Led development of [substance use health referral flow chart](#) for service providers in collaboration with community partners.
- Launched [drug checking test strip pilot project](#).
- Collaborated with AIDS Committee of North Bay and Area to organize and promote point of care testing drives in Timiskaming.

Variance:

- Public communications campaign topics delayed due to staff capacity issues: substance use stigma, lower risk cannabis use, addictions awareness week, and steroid use.
- Health care provider screen for substance use delayed due to staffing capacity challenges. Will be addressed in 2024.
- Provided information to 2 municipalities to update Municipal Alcohol Policies.

Needle Exchange Program:

Internal Program					
Client Services	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total # Encounters NEP and Other HR Supplies	498	355	159	249	413
Total # of needles provided	-	24,380	31,638	37,260	24,856
Total # of bowl pipes provided	-	4,620	12,962	15,366	19,027
Total # of Naloxone kits provided	-	236	234	256	260
Total # of Naloxone refills provided	-	43	45	39	94

Comprehensive Tobacco Control:

Work Completed:

- Cessation support to 31 clients without access to other resources.
- Distributed 108 NRT vouchers.
- Archived Medical Directive for this program since no longer dispensing NRT.

- Provided tobacco-free resources to local sports and recreation clubs and facilities as well as three hospitals, CMHA, and the three Family Health Teams. Resources will be provided to remaining two FHTs in 2024.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Great Northern Family Health Team to partner on implementation of tobacco cessation among people who are pregnant pilot project. Implementation to begin in 2024.
- Outreach to three large employers to offer tobacco cessation support. Focused outreach to continue in 2024.
- Implemented communications campaign to promote tobacco and vape cessation to young adults on radio, newspaper, and social media, and in arenas and recreation areas.
- Developed [Board of Health Briefing Note](#) to inform local advocacy for Ontario’s participation in a vape tax intervention to deter access to vape products among youth.

Variance:

- Refresh and implementation of THU’s 2019 Brief Contact Intervention policy and procedure initiated but not complete. Continuing into 2024.
- Held one Timiskaming Cessation Network meeting in fall 2023 (had planned two).
- Local cross-sector tobacco intervention planning event not held due to staffing capacity limitations.
- Advocacy to district care providers to increase cessation support delayed to 2024 due to staffing capacity limitations.
- Promoted smoke-free multi-unit housing in South part of district, will promote in North part in 2024.
- Promotion of tobacco and vape free campaign in bars and restaurants postponed to 2024.

Tobacco Enforcement							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inspections	355	336	357	220	163	267	348
Charges	6	9	7	1	8	5	5
Warnings	103	82	166	73	136	144	108

Work Completed:

- Our youth test shopping program was fully completed in 2023.
- Test shopping completion also included new specialty vape stores for the first time, as these businesses were new to our district.

Variance:

- We were hoping to train on and begin utilizing the ministry’s new SharePoint site for tobacco enforcement, however the launch of the site was delayed, and it will have to take place in 2024.

Injury Prevention, including On- and Off-Road Safety:

Work Completed:

- Continued with advocacy efforts to reduce highway speed. Highway 11 speed was recently reduced to 70km/h near Ecole St-Michel.

- Supported town of Kirkland Lake with safety changes to local areas of concern (Foss Lane, Woods/Queen Street intersections).
- Facilitated Action2Zero project, with 20 community partners representing 14 organizations participate in preliminary survey to help shape Action2Zero report.
- Collaborated with Healthy Growth and Development team to support car seat safety during Safe Kids Week.
- Facilitated launch of Timiskaming Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
- Campaign delivered re concussions including education and resources for health care providers, parents and students.
- Ongoing coordination of Temiskaming District Road Safety Coalition (6 meetings in 2023).

Variance:

- Did not deliver boating or ATV safety campaigns as planned due to staffing constraints.
- Delayed implementation of communications campaign to reduce risk of accidental poisoning of cannabis edibles in partnership with 9 local retailers to 2024.

Healthy Aging:

Work Completed:

- Coordinated implementation of three older adult Spring Fling wellness fair and luncheon: June 7th – Kirkland Lake – approx. 70 older adults and 8 community partner booths; June 14th – Englehart– approx. 55 older adults and 10 community partner booths; June 21st – New Liskeard – approx. 150 older adults and 12 community partner booths.
- Continuing to collaborate with four other Northeastern Ontario HUs in delivery of Stay on Your Feet (SOYF) initiative for older adult falls prevention, partially funded by Ontario Health Northeast. Includes ongoing maintenance and promotion of regional Stay on Your Feet [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).
- Maintained and expanded diverse network of key stakeholders engaged in fall prevention via Local SOYF Timiskaming Coalition and relevant working groups.
- Maintained [Guide to Exercise Opportunities for Older Adults in Timiskaming](#) with up to date information.
- Coordinated planning and delivery of Stand Up/PIED 48-week exercise classes in partnership with Ontario Health and local delivery partners.
- Supported delivery and expansion of chair-based exercise programs (i.e. Bougeons Doucement Ensemble and From Soup to Tomatoes) in Temiskaming Shores.
- Provided Home Safety Checklist (HSC) and Independent Living Guide (ILG) as tools to assess risk factors at home and in community to older adults and Family Health Teams.

Variance:

- Engagement with City of Temiskaming Shores 8-80s Community Committee—committee has not met as expected.
- Delay in work to identify local businesses interested in moving forward with Age Friendly Business status as part of Provincial Age Friendly Business Working Group. Now planned for Temiskaming Shores in 2024.
- Work to collaborate with partners to advocate for affordable access to transportation for older adults delayed.

- Work with local seniors club to become members of Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario and join Links2Wellbeing and partner with primary care delayed (Encore Club, KL shifting focus to renovations, time did not permit collaborating with another local club this year).
- Exploring opportunities to host wellness clinics at seniors' apartments adjusted: Community paramedicine is hosting these clinics but does not have space to include falls prevention resources at this time.
- No work yet to engage indigenous partners in the coalition. Will address in 2024.
- Did not run Fall Prevention Month campaign on radio and in print as planned.
- Delay in efforts to train volunteers and service providers to incorporate Home Support Exercise Program (HSEP) from Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging (CCAA) into their programming to reach homebound older adults. To be addressed in 2024.
- Planned presentation to Seniors Centre Without Walls on healthy aging and fall prevention postponed.

Violence:

Work Completed:

- Initiated data collection from partners about the prevalence of violence in Timiskaming.
- Research to identify public health approach to addressing violence not completed due to staff capacity. To be addressed in 2024.
- Continue Membership on the Temiskaming District Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee.
- Joined as member of Timiskaming Elder Abuse Task Force.
- Initial violence screening question training session completed with Community Paramedicine who will pilot the project over the next few months.

Healthy Growth and Development

The Timiskaming District had 303 births in 2023. Healthy Growth and Development initiatives continue to prioritize and promote preconception, pregnancy, newborn, child, youth, parental and family health.

Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding:

Work Completed:

- THU continues to support clients with the breast pump program. In 2023, THU supported 22 families with hospital grade breast pumps. We also continue to offer manual breast pumps to families as needed for a minimal fee.
- We continue to maintain and support the Timiskaming Breastfeeding Buddies Facebook group. The Facebook page has 188 followers. Weekly breastfeeding posts are shared.
- We continue to ensure all staff have level 1 breastfeeding training. Staff working in the Healthy Growth & Development program have level 2 breastfeeding training to support local families.
- Lactation consulting support continues throughout the district; a total of 155 breastfeeding interactions were made with families in 2023.

Variance:

- The Breastfeeding Peer Program remains on pause since 2022. Work is underway to assess our capacity to possibly restart the program in 2024.

Prenatal Education:

Work Completed:

- We continue to offer the online bilingual courses for THU residents via Public Health Sudbury and Districts.
- Throughout 2023, THU partnered with Timiskaming Brighter Futures to offer virtual sessions. We also offer 1:1 prenatal/breastfeeding classes through the HBHC program. A total of 62 moms, 11 support partners accessed prenatal classes in 2023. 54 were first-time pregnancies.

Well-baby Visits (WBV):

THU continues to offer WBV throughout the district. These visits reach children aged 0 to 6 years and offer services such as immunizations, weights, and developmental screening.

Work Completed:

- THU offered weekly Well Baby Clinics (WBC) throughout the district.
- A total of 612 children accessed clinical services in 2023 across the district, (NL: 364, KL: 209, Englehart: 39).
- THU supports primary care with publicly funded vaccines. We continue to build relationships with primary care providers related to children services, supports and immunizations.
- During 2023, the HG&D team and School team worked in collaboration with our Anabaptist community to re-build and strengthen our relationship.

Variance:

- We continue to see a decrease in WBV attendance in the north end of the district. An initial meeting was held early December with the Kirkland Lake District Family Health Team and THU to see how we can best support each other related to programs and services. We will explore a joint Well Baby Clinic in 2024.

Mental Health:

Work Completed:

- We continue to screen families using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale prenatally, 48 hours after hospital discharge, at 2-months, and at 6-months post-partum. In 2023, ten referrals for support services were made.

Parenting:

Work Completed:

- THU launched the [Parenting in Timiskaming](#) website and campaign November 19, 2023. THU participated in local National Child Day events in New Liskeard and Kirkland Lake. The campaign includes a website and social media that supports the following topics: breastfeeding, car seats, immunization, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, positive parenting, postnatal and newborn health, preparing for pregnancy, sexual health, sleep, smoking, starting solids, substance use and services at THU.
- We promote collaboration and cross-promotion of our services and programs across the district.
- The team developed a [New Parent Guide](#).

- Throughout 2023, THU actively participated in the following provincial groups: Parenting Indicator Working Group, ACEs and Resiliency Community of Practice and Healthy Growth and Development Evidence Network.
- THU chairs the local Parenting Working Group. The partners include healthcare, social services, and education.
- Locally, THU participates in the Timiskaming Children Services Planning Table.

Road Safety and Car Seat Safety:

Work Completed:

- In 2023, THU hosted a car seat training for internal and external staff across the district. THU certified ten car seat technicians; 21 car seats were inspected as part of the training.
- THU offered 1:1 car seat inspection appointments; 32 car seats were inspected.
- In collaboration with Centre de santé communautaire du Témiskaming, (CSCT), THU offered a car seat presentation to parents.

Healthy Eating

Work Completed:

- Supporting Ontario Dietitians in Public Health Childcare Practical Guide that is being updated for 2024.
- Provided feedback on nutrition sections for the website update.
- Developed nutrition post for Peer Support Facebook Plan for December.
- In collaboration with our dietitian, PHNs offered presentations in collaboration with EarlyOn, Timiskaming Brighter Futures and CSCT related to introducing solid foods.
- THU also created and adapted a resource on how to introduce solids and tips on picky eaters.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program:

The goal of the HBHC program is to optimize newborn and child healthy growth and development and reduce health inequities for families. The program includes the following components: (1) Screening – prenatal, postpartum and early childhood (2) In-depth assessment (IDA) contact and assessment for families with risk (3) Postpartum Contact (4) Blended Home-Visiting and Family Service Plan.

The table below outlines the percentage of births that received a prenatal and postpartum screen as well as the percentage of eligible children (6 weeks to 70 months) who received an early childhood screen. We continue to see an increase in families accessing the HBHC program in the south end of THU's catchment area since resuming regular programming.

Percent of births receiving a prenatal and postnatal HBHC screen and % of eligible children with an early childhood HBHC screen in Timiskaming Health Unit area.						Provincial Target
Screen	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Prenatal	82%	65%	82%	75.4% (46.5%)*	62% (49.5%)*	10%
Postpartum	96%	70%	84%	82.8% (69.8%)*	79% (78.9%)*	80%
Early Childhood	3%	2%	0.7%	3.6% (68.4%)*	4% (67.3%)*	5%

*Clients who are considered high-risk as defined by the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Screen

Blended Home-Visiting (BHV) Program:

Healthy Babies Healthy Children In-Depth Assessments (IDA), Home Visits and Family Service Plans						
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of individuals confirmed with moderate or high risk (eligible for home visit) through an IDA	Prenatal	16 (66.6%)	6 (54.5%)	11 (91.7%)	7 (87.5%)	9 (75%)
	Postpartum	33 (53.2%)	16 (51.6%)	34 (73.9%)	30 (73.2%)	48 (87.2%)
	Early Childhood	18 (72%)	9 (90%)	11 (78.6%)	21 (77.8%)	13 (52.2%)
Number of families served with ≥ 2 home visits		41	26	29	46	69
Number of families who received an IDA.		111	52	72	76	91
Number of families with a family service plan initiated			10	9	30	48
Total # of Home Visits (with a FHV, PHN or both)		206	140	88	498	727

HBHC Screening and Hospital Liaison:

Work Completed:

- We continue to offer daily weekday hospital liaison visits to Temiskaming Hospital. These visits also allow the PHNs to complete a formal post-partum Healthy Babies Healthy Children screen as mandated by the ministry. The visits also enable PHNs to assist families with breastfeeding and to discuss and promote services at THU and within the community.

School and Child Care Health

Oral Health and Vision Screening:

The Oral and Vision Health team has returned to full services in-school. All mandated programming is being completed.

Variance:

- We were unsuccessful at recruiting for a dental assistant position in 2023. Due to capacity, we have only been able to offer mandated programs. The child care fluoride program remained on hold in 2023.

Oral Health - Dental Screenings								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pre-Kind/Kind & Grade 2 In-School Mandatory Program	937	800	624	925	279	0*	518	904
Pre-Kind/Kind, Grade 2, 4 & 7 In-School Mandatory Program***	---**	----**	985	1840	632	0*	751	1129
Office Screenings	238	248	231	193	105	150	88	466

**This program was impacted by staff redeployment to the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of COVID-19 measures on school partners.*

***Data for this section was not captured in the same fashion it was starting in 2018, therefore it is not specific to the grades required.*

****This number includes additional grades in-school screening as well as rescreens and Family and Child Services screens.*

Vision Screening Program:

School Vision Screening Program						
Senior Kindergarten Students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number Screened	146	143	0*	0*	0*	383
Number Referred to Optometrist for Vision Exam	62	63	0*	0*	0*	134

**Similar to oral health, this program was impacted by resources being redeployed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that schools were shut down at times and/or not allowing visitors in when they were open.*

School Health Immunization and Licensed Child Care:

Work Completed:

- The school team continued with school immunization clinics throughout 2023. They offered routine immunization and catch-up vaccines.
- The team continued updating their school immunization process to be ready for the 2023-2024 school year. This included an online process to support the ISPA (Immunization School Pupils Act).
- Support and collaboration continued with our licensed child care providers.

Variance:

- We did not enforce the Immunization School Pupils Act (ISPA) during the 2022-2023 school year due to capacity. Porcupine Health Unit, with whom we share three common school boards, also did not enforce the ISPA.

Comprehensive School and Child Care Health:

Work Completed:

- Work continued to distribute biweekly school community e-blasts to Principals with curriculum linked resources. The purpose of the e-blasts is to share school-related content with all schools across our district. These topics also align with THU's mandate, such as: physical activity, immunization, mental health, or healthy eating.
- Collaboration continued with Porcupine Health Unit as we made updates to the JK resource. [Ready, Set, Kindergarten-JK resource](#)

Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control:

Work Completed:

- We continued to support our local schools with IPAC resources as needed.
- We continue to make sure that THU website information for schools and child care remain up to date.
- [A Guide to Common Infections](#) was created and uploaded to the THU website. This resource was created in partnership with Porcupine Health Unit to support schools and child care providers with information on how to manage common infections.

Healthy Eating and Active Living:

Work Completed:

- Collaborated with EarlyOn and delivered a community Bike Rodeo in Earleton.
- Delivered bicycle rodeos to two schools (four classes).
- Developed new active travel resources for teachers in both French and English: Classroom package includes virtual bicycle safety presentation, student evaluation, teacher feedback form, student cycling pledge.
- Scavenger Hunt Activity and THU booth at Day in the Park in Englehart.
- Provided new skipping ropes/jump rope activity booklet to École Ste-Croix for their outdoor classroom.
- Active School Travel/Advocacy for safety in school zones – after traffic observations and in consultation with the school and the community, a memo was sent to Armstrong Town Council with recommendations for a new crosswalk in front of École Catholique Assomption.
- Another memo was also developed in conjunction with the Timiskaming District Road Safety Coalition on behalf of St. Jerome Catholic School. It was advocating for changes to the main intersection accessing the school, including an enhanced crossing with a 4-way stop and better sidewalk connectivity. The proposed changes were brought to council at a public meeting and the changes were adopted by the Town.
- Promoted the Canadian Cancer Society's "On Your Feet Challenge" via social media.
- Walk 'N Roll social media focus this quarter has been on safe walking and school bus safety, as well as encouraging families to take the active route whenever possible.
- Preparations and communications began with schools in September to get ready for IWalk – two new schools joined this year – École des Navigateurs and Federal Public School. Nine schools were provided with resources and activity suggestions for Walk to School Day and the whole first week of October. **October is Walk to School Month.**
- We provided a box of helmets to the town of Englehart to have available for those who need one.

- Updated the Northern Fruits and Vegetable Program (NFVP) Toolkit activities and implementation guide. This included planning, coordination, deliveries, and troubleshooting. Also completed revision of the NFVP Food Literacy resource.
- Provided SNP lead support funding opportunities and open house nutrition resources.
- Developed 2-3 nutrition posts per month for the Youth Instagram account.
- Contributed to the Youth resilience Instagram page (21 posts).
- Promoting curriculum resources to teachers by writing two e-blasts on promoting food literacy in schools and weight bias in schools.

Sexual Health and Healthy Sexuality:

Work Completed:

- Planning also happened related to getting the healthy relationship clinics initiated in high schools. The purpose of the healthy relationship clinics is to support student and school staff well-being by having a school nurse run weekly or bi-weekly in-school clinics to offer sexual health, healthy relationship, immunization, mental health and substance use services, referrals and resources as needed.
- Supported schools to deliver sexual health curriculum-based learning.
- Reviewed resources that could be used to help support curriculum-based learning on sexual health.
- We are back to offering healthy relationship clinics in four of our five high schools. The purpose of the healthy relationship clinic is to build relationships with students by offering services that include sexual health (birth control, pregnancy tests, STI testing), healthy relationship, mental health, tobacco, and vaping supports.

Substance Use:

Work Completed:

- Distributed updated progressive enforcement of tobacco use toolkits to school boards.
- Information was shared with school boards and local schools on vaping.
- Information was shared on the tobacco enforcement guidelines and requirement during our first DOE meeting for this upcoming school year.
- Shared information on [not an experiment campaign and resources](#).

Mental Health:

Work Completed:

- School nurses supported the RNAO Youth Wellness Initiative.
- Through the summer, THU worked with Porcupine Health Unit to align the program to help school boards have the same expectations across the district.
- In Sept, we had our first meeting with DSB1 school MH staff and the school board MH lead, this included an overview of: the mini-grant, training, timelines and supports.
- We attended principal meetings, topics included mental health concerns and absenteeism.
- Our Youth Instagram page shared information on the following topics: mental health, coping, exam preparation, stress of starting a new school year and other topics that support youth wellness.
- The school nurses also supported health promoters with work related to Planet Youth to prepare our local high schools with the Icelandic Prevention Model (IMP) survey for our grade 10 and 11 students.

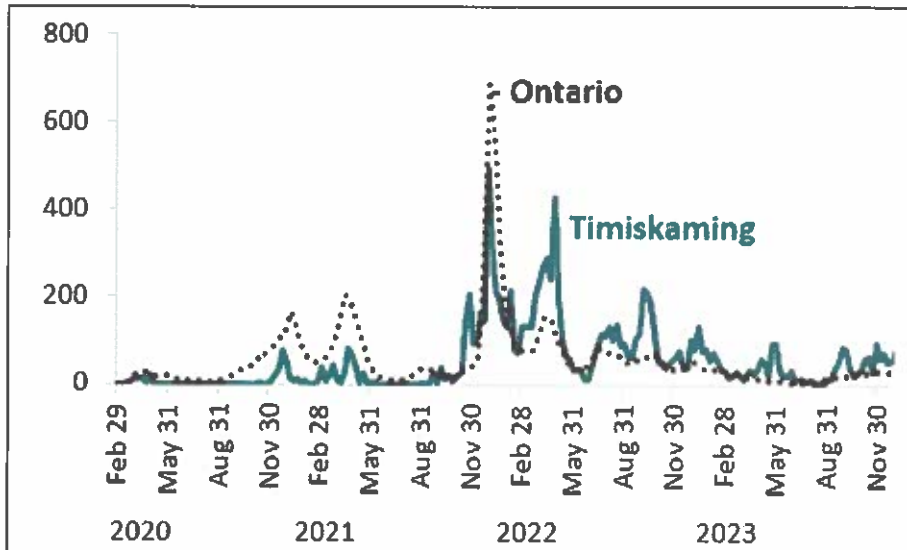
Infectious and Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

Outbreak counts by location from Q1 to Q4 2023 (all types of outbreaks)						
2023	Number of outbreaks	Number of cases				Number of deaths
		Staff	Resident /patient	Visitor	Other	
Long-Term Care & nursing homes	20	60	243	0	0	3
Hospitals	7	20	39	0	0	2
Congregate living	6	15	21	0	0	1
Community	1	0	0	0	1	1
Daycare/school	5	5	0	0	36	0
TOTAL	39	104	303	0	37	7

COVID-19 rates in Timiskaming and Ontario:

COVID-19 – Q1 to Q4:

- COVID cases in the THU area decreased from January to the end of June, then started increasing again near the fall.
- A total of (39) outbreaks were noted in 2023.
- Long-Term Care Homes/Retirement Homes (20)
- Community Living (6)
- Acute Care (7)



COVID-19 Communications:

Below are some highlighted areas of work addressing COVID communication needs.

Public and External

- As we integrated Covid-19 into our regular respiratory programming we began to shift the message to Covid being just one of many possible respiratory illnesses that you need to protect yourself and others against.
- Webpages were maintained to keep information current regarding local and provincial guidance and recommendations for the public and various sectors including regulation changes. Clinic schedules, vaccine opportunities and recommendations. We shifted to a "Covid Threat Barometer" that is posted on our website and updated weekly.

Media Relations

- Media questions continued to be fielded from media locally and across the province, although as we moved through 2023 the inquiries began to slow down. Same message was given to them, regarding Covid being one of many respiratory illnesses.
- A weekly page in The Speaker ran from January to September 2023. All content was bilingual. The bottom half of this page is a calendar of upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The top half of the page consists of a short article, most often using the text from a recent social media post that has been deemed priority. The purpose of this page is to reach people, primarily seniors, who don't use social media.

Internal

- Updates for our area and for the province were communicated internally via all-staff emails as well as a virtual all-staff meeting. This activity did slow down as 2023 progressed as the need was not as dominant as it previously had been.
- Throughout the year, as we continued to integrate Covid-19 into our regular respiratory programming we worked to communicate this shift.

COVID-19 Booking Phone Line:

The COVID-19 booking phone line was maintained by a core team of THU staff during 2023. We continue to promote and encourage clients to book their COVID-19 vaccine on-line; clients who do not have access to a computer and the internet can call the COVID-19 booking line for an appointment.

IPAC Hub:

Work continued through Q4 using the IPAC Hub model, with THU staff providing support to congregate care settings in the district. Outbreak support was the most frequent request from partners throughout the year. Throughout the year, we provided monthly reports and other data as requested to the ministry to secure additional funding for the IPAC Hub to continue in 2023 and 2024.

Work Completed:

- Education sessions provided to LTCH/RH and CL partners on topics such as hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, diseases of public health significance.
- Internal committee continues to meet weekly with the core group and monthly with the larger group to discuss outbreaks and relevant topics.

- Participate in the Regional IPAC Hub table every 2 months.
- Complete and submit monthly reporting tool on THU IPAC activities.
- Completed IPAC audits to several settings within the district.
- Completed IPAC audits to several programs within THU.

Variance:

- Unable to complete IPAC audits/site visits to all congregate care settings (2 of the 5) due to staff limitations.
- Unable to provide education sessions to partners in Q4 due to staff limitations.

Other Diseases of Public Health Significance

Reportable Diseases and Infection Control								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reportable Investigations (non-STI)	73	65	111	91	154	652	1,342 (1314 - COVID)	1,261 (697 were COVID)
Outbreaks - Institutional	14	29	33	18	25	16	18 (15 - COVID)	37 (20 - COVID)
Outbreaks - Community	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	2
Animal Bite Reporting	29	85	77	72	64	62	74	51
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)	82	61	78	67	75	69	28	50
Personal Service Settings Inspections (hair salons, tattoos, piercings, aesthetics)	47	50	52	49	31	10	14	19

Sexual Health Program:

The goal of the Sexual Health Program is to promote healthy sexuality.

Sexual health services at THU include:

- STIs and testing, Pregnancy testing/options counselling, Sexuality, Sexual health, Free condoms, Low-cost birth control.

Sexual Health								
Client Services	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male Clients	129	127	164	308	292	142	68	179
Female Clients	864	805	644	1014	690	295	137	291
% of clients between 12-24	-	-	66%	63%	56.3%	49.2%	46.8%	59.1%

Contraceptives (sold)	929	846	198	195	72	38	29	12*
Contraceptives (prescribed)	-	-	-	-	138	47	83	72
Plan B	41	25	23	25	16	3	13	7
STI Tests	215	201	257	329	241	102	111	186
Pregnancy Tests	28	36	37	39	20	12	19	31
Blood-Borne Infection Tests	124	97	140	148	58	27	42	77
Treatment Prescribed for STI	-	-	-	-	-	29	40	39
Pap tests	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	5

**this number denotes the amount of visits where contraceptives were sold, not the amount of contraceptives provided*

Work Completed:

- Continued with the creation of social media posts on various sexual health topics in collaboration with the youth initiative.
- Connected with additional partners (School team, CSCDGR, DSBONE, First Nations partners) to discuss bridging services.
- Participated in several learning opportunities to increase staff knowledge and competence.
- Worked on a new tracking method to allow for better capturing and extraction of data.

Variance:

- New SH PHN in the south end continues to seek mentorship and education opportunities to enhance her knowledge.
- Several clients take advantage of OHIP+ to obtain contraception and are not purchasing directly from THU.
- Increase in the % of clients seen who are aged between 12-24 years.
- Number of pregnancy tests provided are close to pre-pandemic rates.
- Increase in visits compared to previous years.

Immunizations

Immunization – Vaccine Safety and Vaccine Administration

COVID-19 Vaccine Program

Communications:

Continued social and traditional media and building on partnerships with community organizations to reach specific populations.

Other COVID-19 vaccine program highlights:

- The focus for Q4 consisted of planning for and delivering fall vaccines clinics as per ministry’s guidance of co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.
- Community clinics were held in all areas of the district over a 5-week period to ensure all residents could obtain an influenza and/or a COVID-19 vaccine.

- In-house clinics resumed following community clinics and were very well attended for the months of November and December.

Routine Immunizations:

Immunization Program				
Immunizations Administered in Office	NL	KL	ENG	Total 2023
# of clients receiving immunizations	524	286	94	2130
# of immunizations administered	845	487	165	4165
Note: These numbers do not include Influenza Vaccine Generated from PANORAMA-R07090 Immunization Administered or Wasted at Health Unit				

2022-2023 Universal Influenza Immunization Program:

Year	Vaccine Fridges - Cold Chain Inspections					
	KL		NL		ENG	
	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures	Total inspections	Total failures
2018	15	11	32	10	5	1
2019	15	7	30	12	10	2
2020	18	11	24	3	8	1
2021	19	4	28	3	9	0
2022	19	9	25	4	8	0
2023	16	9	24	2	8	1

Travel Health Vaccine Program:

****the Travel Health Vaccine Program ended effective September 30, 2023 to better align with the OPHS mandates and to focus energies and efforts on priority programs.*

Travel Health Consultations							
Office	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Kirkland Lake	259	210	208	109	0	95	140
New Liskeard	620	695	611	324	64	396	373
Englehart	<i>(included in New Liskeard Statistics)</i>						

Land Control

Septic Systems	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Permits Issued</i>	131	111	124	38	66	76	106	125	93
<i>File Searches</i>	60	60	66	28	55	65	54	53	41
<i>Severance/Subdivision</i>	15	15	29	10	13	8	13	14	12

Safe Water

<i>Drinking Water</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS)	19	13	48	2	3	36	34
Recreational Water							
Public Beaches (<i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i>)	16	17	17	19	0	0	17
Pools	25	18	28	8	13	8	18
Recreational Camps/Beachfront (<i>Seasonal Jul-Aug</i>)	11	9	11	0	5	9	7

Variance:

- SDWS are inspected as they come due in the protocol sequence. In 2023 we had 60 that were due for inspection and we were only able to get to 34 of them due to capacity issues and vacancies.
- Although we were able to inspect most of our recreational camps/beachfronts, which are all in remote areas, we were not able to get to all of them this season.

Healthy Environments and Climate Change

In January of 2023 the Timiskaming Health Unit released a [report](#), that describes the current and projected impacts of climate change on human health in northern Ontario. The report provides support to the Timiskaming Health Unit and community partners to develop adaptation strategies to mitigate the risks associated with climate change and develop a coordinated approach to addressing the health impacts of climate change across the Timiskaming district.

The Timiskaming Health Unit also became a member of the *Ontario Public Health Climate Network*, which was formally established in the fall of 2023. The purpose of this network is to provide a forum for Ontario public health units to discuss ideas and share resources on climate change and health topics. This group also shares knowledge

and offers strategies to reduce the negative health outcomes and inequities associated with climate risks and ultimately improve community resilience.

Variance:

Work pending includes the development of a Timiskaming district climate strategy and surveillance plan that sets out how to meet the requirements in the OPHS standards and guidelines and how to improve and monitor community resilience through mitigation and adaptation planning and implementation.

Food Safety

Food Premises - Compliance Inspections									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
High Risk	165	184	109	93	88	47	29	29	40
Medium Risk	206	110	187	214	192	96	60	93	122
Low Risk	149	204	160	129	135	62	58	126	129
Total	520	498	456	436	415	205	147	248	291

Variance: Some areas of the district are behind in routine compliance inspections due to capacity and vacancy issues, however we did do a blitz in Q4 that enabled us to complete some backlog and will continue to do so once capacity/vacancy issues are addressed.

Food Handler Certifications									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Englehart	63	26	23	75	58	3	24	10	37
New Liskeard/Tem	90	68	144	351	182	19	55	29	177
Kirkland Lake	70	41	58	127	15	34	5	12	19
Total	223	135	225	553	255	56	84	51	233

Variance: We had limited activity in the Kirkland Lake area due to capacity/vacancy issues, in Q4 we did implement a plan that allowed us offer certifications in the area. In any part of our district, people do have the option to take an online Food Handler Certification course at any time.

Upcoming Events



The following list contains *some* of the upcoming events and opportunities that THU staff are participating in or supporting.

- **TOPHC 2024:** March 26 – April 3, 2024
- **OPHA Forum:** February 28, 2024

Human Resource Update

The comings and goings of our colleagues



New Staff:

- Research, Planning & Policy Analyst, Full-Time, Permanent, New Liskeard (Jan 2024)
- Public Health Nurse, Part-Time, Temporary (Jan-Oct 2024)
- Research, Planning & Policy Analyst-Merger Work, Full-Time, Temporary, Remote (Jan-Dec 2024)

Retirement:

- n/a

Resignation:

- n/a

Current Vacancies:

- Public Health Inspector, New Liskeard, Contract
- Public Health Inspector, Kirkland Lake, Permanent
- Dental Assistant, Kirkland Lake, Contract
- Public Health Registered Dietitian, District-Wide, Permanent

Report contributors: Randy Winters –Director of Corporate & Health Protection Services, Erin Cowan –Director of Strategic Services & Health Promotion/CNO. Program Managers: Ryan Peters, Angie Manners, Amanda Mongeon, Jennifer Cardinal. Executive Assistant: Rachelle Cote.

Board of Health Briefing Note

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
Date: March 6, 2024
Topic: **Endorsement of Public Health Sudbury & Districts Letter on Household Food Insecurity**
Submitted by: Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Prepared by: Cristina Benea, Public Health Dietitian
Reviewed by: Erin Cowan, Director of Health Promotion; Amanda Mongeon, Program Manager

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended THAT the Timiskaming Board of Health endorse the Public Health Sudbury and Districts calls for the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability data in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index to inflation going forward as summarized by multiple Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) resolutions: [A05-18](#) (Adequate Nutrition for Ontario Works and Living Wage), [A18-02](#) (Minimum Wage that is Living Wage), [A15-04](#) (Basic Income Guarantee), and [A23-05](#) (Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates) and to continue prioritizing monitoring food affordability as part of population health and surveillance efforts.

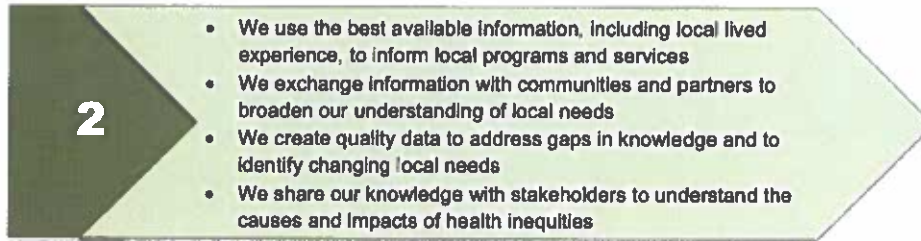
Overview

Household food insecurity (HFI) is a pressing public health issue with profound implications for individuals' health and well-being. The recent resolution #06-24 passed by the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts highlights the urgency of addressing this issue (Appendix A). It calls upon the provincial government to take concrete steps towards ensuring adequate social assistance rates that reflect the current cost of living and to prioritize monitoring food affordability. This policy brief aims to support and demonstrate local relevance of these recommendations, outlining the critical importance of addressing household food insecurity and proposing actionable steps to mitigate its impact.

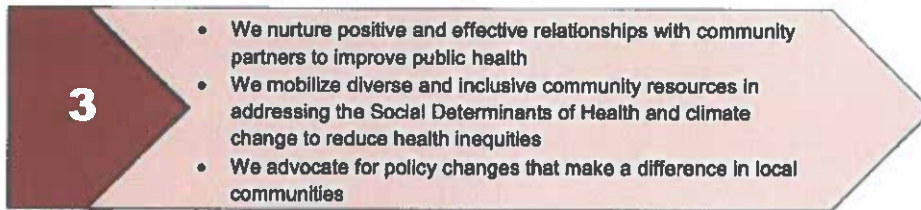
Ontario Public Health Standards (2018) and Timiskaming Health Unit Strategic Plan 2019-2023 Links

This work directly contributes to meeting the requirements and expected outcomes in the Ontario Public Health Standards (2018) and supports THU 2019-2023 the following strategic directions 2 and 3.

We create, share and exchange knowledge



We collaborate with partners to make a difference in our communities



Background

HFI is a pressing issue defined by inadequate access to food due to financial constraints.¹ In Timiskaming, where 15% of the population faces low income,² one in five households experiences food insecurity,³ affecting nearly 18% of children (interpret these data with caution due to sample size limitations).⁴ Households most at risk include those living in low-income, lone-parent (particularly female lone parents), those working precariously, and those relying on social assistance programs like Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.⁵

The consequences of HFI are severe, impacting physical and mental health by increasing the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes,⁶ heart disease, high blood pressure, arthritis,⁷ and mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.^{8,9} Food-insecure individuals impact healthcare costs, which are 121% higher for adults living in severely food-insecure households compared to food-secure ones.¹⁰

In Canada, having a job or social assistance isn't always enough to avoid HFI. Over half of those facing food insecurity rely on employment income, as minimum wage hasn't kept pace with inflation, which places households dependent on minimum wage income at an elevated risk of HFI.² Ontario, for instance, falls short of mandating a living wage, exacerbating financial struggles.¹¹ Increasing household income, whether through a Basic Income Guarantee or/and raising social assistance rates, is crucial to tackling HFI.¹² The Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) survey in Ontario is conducted by Public Health Units (PHUs) to monitor food affordability, which involves measuring and monitoring the cost of foods that reflect healthy eating recommendations to ensure access to nutritious, safe, and acceptable foods.¹³

Implementing basic income has shown promise in reducing HFI. Studies indicate a 50% drop in food insecurity among low-income seniors due to income support programs like Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement.¹⁴ Pilot studies in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador also demonstrate the efficacy of income-based interventions in reducing HFI rates and encouraging healthier food choices. For instance, Newfoundland and Labrador policy reforms prioritized strengthening social

assistance by having them indexed to inflation yearly and increasing the special diet allowance for social assistance recipients.¹⁴ The province found that HFI prevalence for those receiving income from social assistance dropped from 59.9% in 2007 to 33.5% in 2012 due to a cascade of policy reforms.¹⁴ Thus, income-based solutions indexed to inflation, along with affordable housing, childcare, and ensuring local jobs pay a living wage that reflect the true costs of living offering benefits and employment stability, are effective strategies to address poverty, the root cause of HFI.

Local Public Health Action Related to HFI

THU staff continue to implement multiple initiatives to address HFI, which include monitoring food affordability, advocating for income-based solutions, raising public awareness, knowledge translation, and collaborating with local partners such as the Community Food Action Network to support policies and programs to promote income security, food literacy, and social well-being.

Timiskaming BOH History Related to HFI and/or Income Solutions to Address Poverty:

- **May 2023:** Motion #21R-2023. Addressing Household Food Insecurity in Ontario.
- **March 2021:** Position Statement and Recommendations on Responses to Food Insecurity
- **June 2020:** Motion #26R-2020 Basic Income Food Income Security during Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond
- **April 2020:** Motion #18R-2020 response to the Ontario Government as part of their consultation on Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- **March 2020:** Receive 2019 Nutritious Food basket Costing Results and Household Food Insecurity Action and motion #8R-2002 to support KFLA January 28, 2002 motion *Monitoring of food insecurity and food affordability*.
- **April 2019:** Motion #23R-2019. Northern Fruit & Vegetable Program Funding Letter.
- September 2019: Motion #44R-2019 Federal Election Campaign.
- **April 2019:** Motion #23R-2019 Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program.
- Q3 Report 2018: Letter to Government of Ontario advocating for reconsideration of basic income pilot cancellation, maintaining the planned social assistance rate increases, and act on the recommendations from the Income Security Roadmap.
- **April 2018:** Information re. 2017 Nutritious Food Basket Results and Addressing Household Food Insecurity, and THU's participation in the Cent\$less campaign.
- **September 2018:** Presentation re. Public Health Policy Priorities for Consideration – 2018 Municipal Election.
- **September 2015:** Resolution #01-2015: Support for a Basic Income Guarantee.
- **January 2012:** Resolution #01-2012. Social assistance funding freeze.
- **December 2008:** Resolution #09-2008. Nutritious Food Basket and Poverty Reduction Strategy.

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Re: Household Food Insecurity
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Household food insecurity is one of the strongest predictors of poor health, making it a serious public health issue (PROOF, 2023). Individuals who are food insecure are at higher risk of diet-related diseases like diabetes and are at higher risk for a wide range of chronic conditions such as depression and anxiety disorders, arthritis, and chronic pain. Household food insecurity leaves an indelible mark on children's health and well-being (PROOF, 2023). The experience of food insecurity in childhood is associated with mental health concerns throughout childhood and into early adulthood (PROOF, 2023). In Ontario, the healthcare costs of individuals who are the most food insecure can be more than double that of individuals who are food secure (PROOF, 2023, Tarasuk et al., 2015).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue – the solutions for which will not only help many Ontarians in need but also protect the sustainability of our critical health and social services resources.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Peter Bthlenfalvy, Ministry of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Jacqueline Edwards and Jennifer Babin-Fenske, Co-chairs, Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council
Richard Lathwell, Local Food Manitoulin
Colleen Hill, Executive Director, Manitoulin Family Resources
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

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866)

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Municipal Finance Policy Branch

777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Email: MFPB@ontario.ca

**Ministère des Affaires
municipales et du Logement**

Direction des politiques relatives
aux finances municipales

777, rue Bay, 13^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Courriel: MFPB@ontario.ca



March 20, 2024

Dear Municipal Treasurer,

I am pleased to enclose a report showing your municipality's 2024 Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) respecting long-term debt and financial obligations. Your 2024 ARL was calculated based on 25 percent of your net own source revenues as reported in your 2022 Financial Information Return (FIR).

Municipalities in Ontario are responsible for ensuring that they do not exceed their ARL. When a municipality proposes long-term borrowing (or other long-term financial obligation), the municipal treasurer is responsible for updating the limit provided by the Ministry. The treasurer must determine if there is capacity within the municipality's ARL to undertake the planned borrowing. Schedule 81 of the FIR may be among the schedules of interest to the treasurer when updating the municipality's ARL.

If you require any further information, please contact the appropriate Municipal Services Office of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (list enclosed).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ruchi Parkash".

Ruchi Parkash
Director

Enclosures

8 (c)



MUNICIPAL FINANCE
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
OF ONTARIO

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC AND FISCAL UPDATE 2024: BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO

Date: March 26, 2024

1. ECONOMIC AND FISCAL UPDATE AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

Click here for the 2024 [Provincial Economic and Fiscal Update](#), [Highlights](#), and [News Release](#).

2. PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC AND FISCAL UPDATE 2024 PRIORITIES

The economic and fiscal update stresses a number of themes:

- Rebuilding Ontario's Economy
- Building Infrastructure, Highways and Transit in Your Communities
- Working for Workers
- Keeping Costs Down
- Better Services for You

3. MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

The economic and fiscal update includes summaries of prior commitments as well as some new announcements.

HOUSING

- The Province is returning surplus properties into productive use in support of government priorities such as attainable housing and other social infrastructure (p. 51).
- The Province will establish a new provincial policy framework that sets out best practices for municipalities to implement a Vacant Home Tax. The framework will encourage municipalities to set a higher Vacant Home Tax rate for foreign-owned vacant homes, and municipalities will no longer need approval from the Minister of Finance to implement the tax (p. 79).
- \$152M over the next three years to support individuals facing unstable housing conditions and dealing with mental health and addictions challenges (p. 78).

INFRASTRUCTURE

- As previously announced, \$1B for the new Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to support core infrastructure projects that enable housing for growing and developing communities (p. 45).
- As previously announced, an additional \$625M to the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, bringing the fund's total to \$825M (p. 46).
- Municipalities will receive increased access to financing for housing-enabling water and wastewater infrastructure projects under Infrastructure Ontario's loan program that will better align municipal revenues from new housing with payments on the loans from Infrastructure Ontario, with options that:
 - Provide flexibility on construction period interest payments, including deferred interest payments until projects are substantially complete;
 - Longer loan terms;
 - More flexible repayment terms; and,
 - Lower administrative costs (p. 46).
- The Province is proposing legislation to support the Building Ontario Fund's mandate and investment objectives as an independent, arm's-length agency (p. 47).
- \$200M over three years in a new application-based local Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund. The funds will invest in new and revitalized sport, recreation and community facilities (p. 48).
- \$250M over three years for critical repairs for key public infrastructure such as courts, detention centres, laboratories and offices (p. 51).
- \$5M to explore the use of digital twins technology to deliver its public infrastructure projects (p. 65).

TRANSIT

- \$5M annually for the new Ontario Transit Investment Fund, which supports the delivery of local and intercommunity transportation projects in unserved and underserved areas in Ontario, particularly in rural areas. The Fund will build on the Community Transportation Grant Program and will include an ongoing application-based intake with expanded eligibility that includes municipalities, Indigenous communities, and non-profit organizations (p. 65).

PROPERTY TAX AND ASSESSMENT

- Effective immediately, Ontario is providing municipalities with the flexibility to offer a reduced municipal property tax rate on new multi-residential rental properties (p. 81).
 - Municipalities can lower their tax burden to a maximum of 35%.

- The property assessment and taxation review is underway, with consultations with a broader engagement of stakeholders starting in early spring. The provincewide property reassessment will continue to be deferred until the review is complete (p. 199).

OTHER

- The Province will review supports for consolidation of interested municipal electricity utilities and will provide a status update as part of the 2024 Fall Economic Statement, prior to the expiry of existing temporary tax relief measures related to the sale of assets (p. 37).
- \$30M over three years to launch the Fire Protection Grant – an application-based program for protective infrastructure and equipment for municipal fire departments (p. 107).
- As previously announced, annual inflation adjustments to core allowances for the Ontario Disability Support Program and the maximum monthly amount for the Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Program (p. 158).

4. OTHER INITIATIVES

HEALTHCARE

- Investing an additional \$965M in 2024/25 in hospitals, including:
 - a 4% increase in total base hospital funding;
 - stabilization and management of the surgical system, and;
 - funding to ease pressures faced by small and Northern hospitals (p. 84).
- Investing \$546M over three years to enhance access to family doctors and primary care (p. 84).
- \$753M over three years to grow the health care workforce, including:
 - increased training opportunities for health care students;
 - improved support for internationally trained nurses to become accredited; and
 - expanded enrolment for college and university nursing programs (pp. 86-87).
- \$12M to establish a new Health Technology Accelerator Fund (p. 87).
- \$50M over three years to enhance healthcare capacity in Northern and rural communities (p. 88)
- \$45M over three years to enhance the Northern Health Travel Grant Program (p. 88).
- \$94M over three years to enhance health and well-being for Indigenous and Northern communities, including:
 - \$60M for mental health and addictions services;
 - \$15M for ongoing delivery of Indigenous public health programs;
 - \$11M to enhance early detection and management of foot complications arising from diabetes for Indigenous communities; and,
 - \$8M to strengthen prevention initiatives in Indigenous communities (p. 89).

- \$24M over three years to enhance access to the Indigenous Health Babies Healthy Children Program (p. 89).
- \$15M over three years for Mobile Maternal Care for rural and remote communities (p. 89).
- \$11M over three years to support safer births in Northern Ontario (p. 89).
- \$365M over three years for stabilization, improved access and expansion of existing mental health and addictions services and programs (p. 90).
- \$8.3M over three years for five new youth wellness hubs to improve access to youth mental health services (p. 90).
- \$620M over ten years for the Health Infrastructure Renewal and Community Infrastructure Renewal Funds (p. 92).
- \$500M over ten years for small hospital projects and community health programs (p.92).
- Investing an additional \$2B over three years to support the expansion of home care services (p. 83).

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Expanding eligibility of the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) by increasing income eligibility thresholds by up to 35% (p. 72).
- Expanding the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) program for seniors and indexing the benefit to inflation. In July 2024 the maximum benefit will increase to \$87 per month for singles and \$174 per month for couples. The income eligibility thresholds for singles and couples will increase as well (p. 77).

INNOVATION

- An additional \$100M to the Invest Ontario Fund, which helps to attract investments globally and support businesses to expand their operations in Ontario (p. 27).
- An additional \$15M over three years to the Critical Minerals Innovation Fund, which supports innovation and research projects in the critical minerals sector. The additional funds will encourage private-public collaboration and create jobs supporting municipalities, Indigenous communities, and regional economies (p. 30).
- An additional \$60M over three years to extend the Forest Biomass Program, which supports forest-sector job creation and innovation (p. 31).
- \$1M in additional annual funding starting in 2024/25 to Ontario's Regional Innovation Centres (p. 38).
- An additional \$6.8M over the next two years to enhance the Starter Company Plus program, which will provide grants to an additional 500 entrepreneurs, support the Summer Company program, and support Ontario's Francophone entrepreneurs (p. 41).

EDUCATION

- \$15M in 2024/25 for digital math tools to increase learning opportunities in class and at home (p. 94).
- \$65M for dedicated educators working with students in kindergarten to Grade 3 (p. 95).
- \$30M over three years to help equip schools with enhanced security features (p. 95).
- \$18M for increased dedicated supports for students with special education needs, including \$10M for those with the highest level of need (p. 95).
- \$120M increase for the Ontario Autism Program (p. 96).
- \$15M over three years to implement a postsecondary Efficiency and Accountability Fund (p. 100).
- \$903M over three years to create a Postsecondary Education Sustainability Fund, which will include a sector-wide increase to operating grants and targeted funding for institutions with the greatest financial need (p. 100).
- \$10M in additional funding through the Small, Northern and Rural Grant for colleges and the Northern Ontario Grant for universities (p. 101).

CRIME

- \$13.5M over three years to enhance initiatives that support women, children, and youth who are at increased risk of violence or exploitation (p. 108).
- \$27M over three years to enhance sexual assault and domestic violence services (p. 109).
- \$6.4M over three years to support the Independent Legal Advice for Survivors of Sexual Assault program and expand the Child Victim Witness Support Program (p. 109).
- \$31M over three years to support the Provincial Joint Forces Cannabis Enforcement Teams to combat illegal cannabis storefronts and online operators (p. 109).
- \$49M over three years to support the Ontario Provincial Police's Organized Crime Towing and Auto Theft Team (p. 106).

OTHER

- Extended fuel and gas tax cuts until December 31, 2024 (p. 71).
- Proposing to make auto insurance pay for medical and rehab benefits relating to an auto accident before extended health care plans (p. 74).
- \$86M over three years in additional funding for the Northern Energy Advantage Program, which provides a rebate for eligible mining, forestry and steel operations in Northern Ontario (p. 36).
- A proposal for new requirements for the Ontario Computer Animation and Special Effects Tax Credit to simplify eligibility. Next, the government will review the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit regional bonus to ensure it effectively supports film and television production (p. 43).
- \$21.1M to expand the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) (p. 68).

- \$41.8M to launch approximately 100 pre-apprenticeship training projects around the province to help young people get firsthand experience working in trades, including a paid work placement with a local employer (p. 68).
- Eliminating the 6.6% basic tax at on-site winery retail stores (p. 75).
- \$10M over three years to improve the quality of French language services (p. 102).
- \$20M over four years to continue the Greenlands Conservation Partnership program (p. 105).
- The Ontario Sustainable Bond Framework, previously known as the Green Bond Framework, was released in January 2024. The new framework allows for a broader range of potential bond offerings in the future, including emissions-free nuclear power (p. 182).

5. PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

OVERVIEW

- Ontario’s economy performed better than expected in 2023, despite economic headwinds prompted by elevated consumer price inflation and high interest rates. However, the economic outlook has deteriorated compared to the *2023 Budget* with significantly lower growth projected in 2024, and slightly lower growth in 2025 and 2026 (p. 115).
- The provincial economy faces a number of challenges including: slower real and nominal GDP growth between 2024 and 2026, with the most pronounced deterioration in 2024 and weaker net operating surplus of corporations’ growth (p. 116).
- Global conflicts continue to disrupt commodity markets and pose risks to supply chains. In additions, rising trade tensions are continuing to weigh on international trade in goods and services, which could impact Ontario’s key trading relationship in North America (p. 136).
- Under the government’s planned projection, Ontario is budgeted to return to a surplus position of \$0.5B in 2026/27 (p. 143).

INFLATION (P.115)

- Inflation is expected to reach 2.6% in 2024.

%	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
CPI inflation	6.8	3.8	2.6	2.0	2.0	2.0

INTEREST RATES (PP. 128, 136)

- Although several major central banks, including the Bank of Canada and the U.S. Federal Reserve, have signaled that they have likely concluded their recent cycles of interest rates increases, a significant downside risk is that they may maintain higher interest rates for longer if they judge it necessary to ensure the return of inflation to the target rate (p. 136).

%	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
3 Mo. Treasury Bill rate	2.3	4.8	4.4	3.0	2.6	2.6
10 Yr. Canada Bond rate	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.5

GDP

- Ontario's real GDP grew by an estimated 1.2% in 2023, stronger than the projection in the *2023 Budget* and nominal GDP growth is estimated at 4.1%, higher than the 2.8% in the *2023 Budget* projections (p. 115).
- After a strong start to the year, Ontario's GDP growth moderated through the course of 2023, as the Bank of Canada's high interest rates weighed on the economy (p.120).
- Private sector forecasts project that Ontario's real GDP will grow by 0.4% in 2024, 2.0% in 2025, and 2.3% in 2026 & 2027. They are projecting that the nominal GDP will grow by 2.8% in 2024, 4.0% in 2025, 4.4% in 2026, and 4.2% in 2027 (pp. 122-123).

%	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Real GDP	3.9	1.2	0.3	1.9	2.2	2.2
Nominal GDP	9.2	4.1	2.7	3.9	4.3	4.1

EMPLOYMENT

- High interest rates are projected to contribute to an easing in the labour market in early 2024 before improving later in the year. Employment is projected to rise by 0.8% in 2024, slowing from a 2.4% increase in 2023 (p. 115).
- The slower employment growth, along with continued robust population and labour force growth, is projected to raise the unemployment rate to 6.7% in 2024 (p. 130).

%	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Employment Growth	4.6	2.4	0.8	1.7	1.4	1.4

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND DEBT (P.#)

- Slowing demand has helped ease price pressure while population increases have contributed to rising nominal household spending in 2023, which was up 6.0%, after a 13.2% increase in 2022. Despite these strong gains, real spending softened on a per capita basis in 2023 as higher prices and interest costs weighed on household budgets. Canadian household interest payments on debt on a real per capita basis have risen significantly and are at the highest level in 30 years (p. 131).

- Nominal household spending growth is projected to moderate to 3.5% in 2024 but is expected to accelerate to 4.1% in 2025 as interest rates decrease and the labour market strengthens (p. 131).

CANADIAN DOLLAR (P. 128)

- The Canadian dollar was 74.1 cents US in 2023 and is expected to increase to 74.6 cents US in 2024, and average 77.6 cents US from 2025 to 2027.

6. PROVINCIAL FINANCES

DEBT

- The net debt-to-GDP ratio in 2023/24 was 38.0%, and net debt-to-GDP is projected to be 39.2% in 2024/25, before increasing to 39.5% by 2025/26 (p. 190).
- The increase in the ratio over the medium-term outlook is primarily due to higher than projected deficits and investments in infrastructure. The medium-term outlook still forecasts the net debt-to-GDP ratio to be below the target of 40.0% (p. 190).

DEFICIT

- Ontario is projecting a \$3.0B deficit in 2023/24. Over the medium-term, the government is projecting deficits of \$9.8B in 2024/25, and \$4.6B in 2025/26 before planning for a surplus of \$0.5B in 2026/27 (p.3).

Medium-Term Fiscal Plan and Outlook (\$B)

TABLE 3.1 P. 144

	Actual Outlook 2022/23	Current Outlook 2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	% change 2024- 2027
Revenue	192.9	204.3	205.7	217.5	226.6	10.2
Expense						
Programs	186.4	194.5	200.6	205.8	208.9	4.1
Interest on Debt	12.4	12.8	13.9	14.7	15.2	9.4
Total Expense	198.8	207.3	214.5	220.6	224.1	4.5
Reserve	0	0	1.0	1.5	2.0	
Surplus/(Deficit)	-5.9	-3.0	-9.8	-4.6	0.5	
Net Debt (as % of GDP)	38.2	38.0	39.2	39.5	39.1	
Accumulated Deficit (as % of GDP)						

Percentage column added

Prepared by:

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#10 (a)

Minutes of a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday February 27th , 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in person in the meeting room or by phone.

1. Opening of Meeting by the Committee Chair:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Chair Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Chair Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Gabourie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Taylor White	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clerk Typist: Melanie Jensen
Member of the audience: 2

Moved by Annie Keft **05/2024**
Seconded by Bonita Culhane **Absent**

THAT the Chair agrees to grant a leave of absence to Member Taylor White for the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of February 27th , 2024, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk or Chair.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Bonita Culhane **06/2024**
Seconded by Annie Keft **Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on February 27th 2024 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: None

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :

Moved by Annie Keft
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**07/2024
Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on January 23rd , 2024, be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations: None

8. Correspondence, Information: Magazines

9. Members Update Reports:

-Members gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

a) Voting New Member:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Annie Keft

**08/2024
New Member**

THAT the Strategic Planning Committee accepts new member Wendy Weller and brings it forward to Council for final approval.

Carried

b) Trade Show:

Deferred to next meeting.

c) Community Garden:

Members discussed the garden boxes. Posters are out to the public. We have 4 as of tonight who put their name in.

d) Terms of Reference:

Members discussed the Terms of Reference. They made a few changes and will bring back the Terms of Reference for committee level final approval at the next committee meeting and then bring it forward to Council for final approval.

e) **Post Office Grant:**

Members discussed the possibility of the application of this grant, but it is too late as the deadline is March 1, 2024. Members wanted to get playground equipment in for this grant, but the grant is \$5000.00 and the equipment is much more than the grant amount.

11. a) **Submitted Questions: None**

b) **Audience Questions:**

A question period was held.

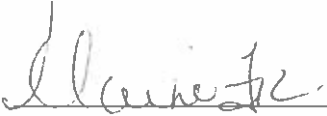
12. **Adjournment:**

Moved by Annie Keft
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

09/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Carried



Chair Councillor Elaine Fic

#10 (b)

Virginiatown, ON

March 26, 2024

Township of McGarry

Mayor and Council

I am writing this letter on behalf of the McGarry Public Library Board. At our regular meeting held this past Monday, members of the board revisited the issue of the entrance to the library.

This is not a new matter. In the fall of 2021, the library board reached out to council in the hope of having a railing installed leading to the entrance door after a patron had fallen. We have many elderly persons who feel safer hanging onto a railing as they approach an entrance, especially if it is not level. To the works department credit, since that request was put forward, the entrance has always been shoveled and de iced before library opening hours.

Unfortunately, this winter, when removing the snow, chunks of asphalt were removed from the end of the access to our entrance creating a new problem. Several persons have tripped on the rough spots. Needless to say, when they come in, their first question is about when are we going to do something with that ramp. We have moved from an annoyance to a security issue. We need to act before someone falls flat on their face!

We also reviewed the small structure installed at the door. With time, it has become detached from the main building. When it rains, water gets in. When it snows, we have snow in front of the main door. At times the water entering through the main door soaks the carpet inside the library entrance. The structure has seen better days. Perhaps it is time for it to come down.

It should be noted also, that the entrance is not accessible to those who need a wheelchair.

We discussed several ways to solve the issues. The most economical one, for the moment, seems to be to grant the library access to other entrance. The library already has a door that could stay open. And a sign on the wall points to the library. It should also be noted that cameras are looking at the hallway from all directions.

We are asking council to please deal with this matter sooner rather than later. We do have two representatives from council who are aware of the discussions.

Thank you

Margo Jolette

McGarry Public Library Board

#10 (c)

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

Monday February 26, 2024

McGarry Public Library, 5:30 p.m.

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Apologies for non-attendance
3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Minutes of meeting 29/01/2024
6. Business arising from the minutes
 - Update on Placemaking grant
 - Rug cleaning
 - Summer student
 - Update on CVITP (tax preparation)
7. Correspondence
 - OLS contact/Bell
 - Cantook Libraries
 - Board Self-Evaluation Questionnaire
8. CEO/Chairperson report
9. Finance
 - Accounts – January – Wages/Benefits 1267.68 \$
 - General – 317.39 \$
 - Draft budget 2024
9. Other Business
 - Take and make craft kits
 - Easter
10. Adjournment

Next meeting – March 25, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

MCGARRY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of the regular meeting held at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, February 26, 2024 McGarry Public Library

PRESENT: Margo Jollette (Chairperson, presided)
Merdy Armstrong, trustee
Ginette Guilbeault
Annie Keft, council representative
Samantha Goulet, staff
ABSENT: Francine Plante, council representative (with regrets)
AUDIENCE: none

1. Opening of meeting

Meeting was opened at 5:30 p.m.

2. Conflicts of interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Approval of Agenda

2024:06 Moved by Ginette Guilbeault

Seconded by Merdy Armstrong

That the agenda for the meeting of February 26, 2024 be accepted.

Carried

4. Minutes of the meeting of October 30, 2023

2024:07 Moved by Annie Keft

Seconded by Merdy Armstrong

That the minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2024, be accepted.

Carried

5. Business arising from the minutes

- THU grant preparation going ahead. A proposed roadhouse library was presented. Details for the construction of the table not yet confirmed. 125
- Provider has confirmed that rug cleaning will take place before the end of March. Library will order rugs to be placed at entrance and in front of service desk.
- The application for a summer student has yet to be confirmed.
- Library is ready for CVITP (Community Volunteer Income Tax Preparation) program. All approvals are in place. Software is installed. We have been approved for a laptop for the service. Flyers have been installed and also included in the spring newsletter.

6. Correspondence

- The Ontario Library Service is managing a pool of resources offered by Cantook Libraries. Should our library participate in this venture, French

reading patrons would have access to hundreds of ebooks at no cost. Cost to the library is 100.00 \$ per year. We have informed OLS of our desire to be part of this pool.

- OLS contact person has advised us that Bell should soon contact us re fibre net installation.
- Access Copyright licence has been renewed for 2024.
- A board self-evaluation questionnaire was shared with trustees and CEO for information purposes. We will review this questionnaire later in the year.

7. CEO/Chairperson report

- No new information at this time

8. Finance

2024:08 Moved by Ginette Guilbeault
Seconded by Merdy Armstrong

That the accounts for January 2024 in the amounts: **wages and benefits** -- 1267,68\$ and **general accounts** 317.39\$ be paid.

Carried

2024:09 Moved by Ginette Guilbeault
Seconded by Annie Keft

That the draft budget of income and expenses for 2024 be accepted and forwarded to council.

Carried

- A healthy discussion around a draft budget of income and expenses took place. Explanations for the numbers were supplied by the treasurer and librarian. The final draft is attached to these minutes.

9. Other Business.

- A suggestion to prepare Take and Make craft kits was accepted by those present. These would be handed out to children at activities or could be picked up at the library. The first theme will be Easter. Children will be encouraged to return their completed project to the library in exchange for an Easter treat.
- A discussion surrounding accessibility and safety took place. The point was made that it is essential to have safe and accessible access to the library for all patrons. The present situation does present some concern, particularly for seniors or handicapped people. Different solutions were proposed. As the building does belong to McGarry township, discussions will have to take place at that level in an attempt to resolve the issue.

10. Adjournment

2024:10 Moved by Annie Keft

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Carried

Chairperson

Maayo Jette

Secretary

Samanta Gurd

Approved

March 25, 2024

10 (d)



MINUTES

Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health

Regular Meeting held on January 31, 2024 at 6:30 PM

NL Auditoriums / Microsoft Teams

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Stacy Wight	Chair, Municipal Appointee of Kirkland Lake (<i>video</i>)
Jesse Foley	Vice-Chair, Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shore
Mark Wilson	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Jeff Laferriere	Municipal Appointee for Temiskaming Shores
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Carol Lowery	Municipal Appointee for Town of Cobalt, Town of Latchford, Municipality of Temagami, and Township of Coleman
Paul Kelly	Municipal Appointee for Township of Larder Lake, McGarry & Gauthier (<i>video</i>)
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee
Guy Godmaire	Municipal Representative for Township of Brethour, Harris, Harley & Casey, Village of Thornloe (<i>video</i>)
Steve McIntyre	Municipal Appointee for Township of Armstrong, Hudson, James, Kerns & Matachewan (<i>video</i>)
Casey Owens	Municipal Appointee for Town of Kirkland Lake (<i>video</i>)

Regrets

Gord Saunders	Municipal Appointee for Township of Chamberlain, Charlton, Eanturel, Hilliard, Dack & Town of Englehart
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee

Timiskaming Health Unit Staff Members

Dr. Glenn Corneil	Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services
Rachelle Cote	Executive Assistant

3. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS/APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

a. YEAR 2024 ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Motion #	Nominations for	Elected Officer(s)	Moved by	Seconded by
Motion #1R-2024	Board Chair:	Stacy Wight	Jeff Laferriere	Paul Kelly
Motion #2R-2024	Board Vice-Chair:	Jesse Foley	Jeff Laferriere	Mark Wilson
	Auditors:	Kemp, Elliott & Blair, Steve Aclands	Appointed as per Temiskaming Shores	
Motion #3R-2024	Signing Officers:	Stacy Wight Curtis Arthur Jesse Foley Dr. Glenn Corneil Randy Winters	Paul Kelly	David Lowe
Motion #4R-2024	Finance Sub-Committee:	Stacy Wight Cathy Dwyer Paul Kelly Curtis Arthur Dr. Glenn Corneil Randy Winters	Guy Godmaire	Carol Lowery
Motion #5R-2024	Policy/Procedure Sub-Committee:	Stacy Wight Jesse Foley Curtis Arthur Carol Lowery Dr. Glenn Corneil Randy Winters Rachelle Cote	Paul Kelly	Mark Wilson
Motion #6R-2024	Personnel/Grievance Sub-Committee:	Stacy Wight Carol Lowery Jesse Foley Steve McIntyre Dr. Glenn Corneil Randy Winters	Curtis Arthur	Casey Owens

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #7R-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved that the Board of Health adopts the agenda for its regular meeting held on January 31, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**MOTION #8R-2024**

Moved by: Jeff Laferriere

Seconded by: Jesse Foley

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the minutes of its regular meeting held on December 6, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS ARISING

None noted.

8. 2024 PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET & RELATED PROGRAMS**a. 2024 Budget Presentation and Discussion**

Mr. Winters presented the budget details for review and discussion.

b. 2024 Budget Program Breakdown

A breakdown of budget items was presented for information.

MOTION #9R-2024

Moved by: Jeff Laferriere

Seconded by: Paul Kelly

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the 2024 Public Health and Related Budget as presented with a 5% or \$75,459 municipal levy increase and that a funding request be submitted for the Seniors Dental Program.

CARRIED

9. REPORTS OF MOH/CEO

Dr. Corneil updated the Board on recent program updates. Awaiting more information on the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) review. Will keep the Board informed as ministry updates are shared.

10. NEW BUSINESS**a. PHU-THU Merger Update and Briefing Note**

Dr. Corneil provided the following update:

- The briefing note issued to the ministry in September 2023 was shared for reference.
- Working on budget and merger application due to the ministry, April 2, 2024. The merger application consists of 3 areas; Board, Corporate and Services. Working on general costs over the next 3 years, 2024-2026. There are ministry incentives available for those that merge. Any cost savings as a result of the merger process will be kept by the new entity as directed by the ministry. An annual 1% provincial funding increase has also been confirmed for year 2024 to 2026.

- The PHU-THU working group developed a draft high level organizational structure which will be revisited once the next steps are completed.
- Working on roadmap, timelines and communication templates to keep the Board of Health, all staff and municipal partners informed. Looking to provide a roadmap model at the next meeting.
- The new entity is expected to formally take effect in January 2025. All health units are proceeding in different ways and rates. Nine other health units are apparently pairing or merging with two more sites per the ROMA Conference.
- MOH to provide an update to all staff tomorrow.
- The full Board may need to meet end of March to finalize/approve the merger application.

b. **PHU-THU Board Working Group Discussion**

Dr. Corneil and Chair Wight discussed the creation of a PHU-THU Board Working Group to perform the short-term work and discuss recommendations for the new entity. The discussions and recommendations will be shared and presented to the full Board of Health for further approval or direction required. The group is looking for both rural/urban geographical representation that will consist of an equal membership of (3) board members from each health unit, including the Chair and Medical Officers of Health. The draft Terms of Reference were read by Dr. Corneil.

Merger Board Working Group Membership:

Board members are to submit their interest to Chair Wight by February 5, 2024. The group will be determined by both Board Chairs. Looking to hold the first meeting next week.

MOTION #10R-2024

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Jesse Foley

Be it resolved that the Timiskaming Board of Health approves the creation of the Board Merger Working Group, with the structure and process of membership as presented, and determined by Board Chairs Boileau and Chair Wight.

c. **AMO Presentation: Ending Homelessness**

Mr. Wilson shared an overview of recent presentations attended, Ending Homelessness, for information and awareness.

d. **alPHa Winter Symposium**

MOTION #11R-2024

Moved by: Guy Godmaire

Seconded by: Steve McIntyre

Be it resolved that the Board of Health approves the virtual registration to the alPHa Winter Symposium on February 16, 2024:

- Curtis Arthur

CARRIED

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

MOTION #12R-2024

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Carol Lowery

Be it resolved the Board of Health acknowledges receipt of the correspondence for information purposes.

CARRIED

12. **IN-CAMERA**

MOTION #13R-2024

Moved by: Paul Kelly

Seconded by: Steve McIntyre

Be it resolved the Board of Health agrees to move in-camera at 7:49 pm to discuss the following matter under section 239(2):

- In-Camera Minutes (December 6, 2023)

CARRIED

13. **RISE AND REPORT**

MOTION #14R-2024

Moved by: Jeff Laferriere

Seconded by: Steve McIntyre

Be it resolved the Board of Health agrees to rise with report at 7:51 pm.

CARRIED

a. **IN-CAMERA MINUTES – DECEMBER 6, 2023**

MOTION #1C-2024

Moved by: Jesse Foley

Seconded by: Guy Godmaire

Be it resolved the Board of Health approves the in-camera minutes of the regular Board meeting held on December 6, 2023.

CARRIED

14. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on March 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Englehart.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #15R-2024

Moved by: Casey Owens

Seconded by: Mark Wilson

Be it resolved that the Board of Health agrees to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:51 pm.

CARRIED

Stacy Wight, Board Chair

Rachelle Cote, Recorder

#10 (e)

FW: Att Karine Pelletier Request to Mayor/Council

1 message

njensen@mcgarry.ca <njensen@mcgarry.ca>
To: kpelletier@mcgarry.ca

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 8:41 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@mcgarry.ca <noreply@mcgarry.ca> On Behalf Of AI French
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 8:39 AM
To: njensen@mcgarry.ca
Subject: Att Karine Pelletier Request to Mayor/Council

DRAFT

Dear Mayor and Council

As a former resident I, along with a few others, are seeking to coordinate a function (or several) on July 27, 2024.

Our initial goal was to contact former classmates to return to the area for a reunion, however, we have determined that there may be interest for a wider group of people who attended local schools over the years (V-Town Public, Ecole St Louis and Kearns schools).

We have had some discussion with the Legion to confirm they would be willing to host socials and we were very happy to hear that they would be willing to work with us.

Our request to the municipality is in the event that our numbers outgrow the Legion as a venue would the municipality allow us to use the facilities at the community centre? Also, would there be a committee(s) that could work with us to offer quality functions?

Of note, we would be marketing the event(s) to former residents but we would like to also invite current residents to participate in any of the functions that are organized to make it a true community initiative.

Thank you for your consideration

Best regards

AI French
Virginia Prentice

Origin: <https://www.mcgarry.ca/en/council-committees/council.aspx>

This email was sent to you by AI French <Frenchy0217@gmail.com> through <https://www.mcgarry.ca>.

#10 (g)

Surplus Equipment Report to Council:

1: Zamboni – Can't be used inside anymore due to gasoline engine. If used for outside rink it would need to be stored inside in heated area and a new jumbo hot water tank installed to fill it. Hot water is used so the water levels out before it freezes. The cost of a jumbo hot water tank and having to drive the Zamboni to an outside rink would be a large expense to the tax payers. Found a similar one ,1 year newer online for \$17800.00 so I would suggest starting bid of \$10,000.00 on GovDeals.

2: skate Sharpener – Found similar online for \$798.69 so I would suggest starting bid of \$500.00 on GovDeals

3: gas Cement Mixer – This unit hasn't been used in over 6 years. The township isn't allowed to use own mixed concrete as we are required to use engineered drawings which stipulate concrete strengths. This unit has a large 6 yard mixing hopper so it is one of the larger units on the market. I would suggest a starting bid Of \$500.00 on GovDeals.

4: Yamaha 4400 Generator – This unit has been used once in the past 6 years also. It was also the back up power for the township office building but isn't required now that the Generac unit has been permanently installed. This unit is too large for water break as has to be moved around in the bucket of a machine. I suggest starting bids at \$600.00.

5: Yamaha 6000 Generator – This unit hasn't been used in over 6 years either. I would suggest starting bid of \$750.00

6: oil Unit Space Heater – This is the old unit from the gym at the community center and has been replaced with new propane system. Start bidding at \$150.00 as is. It was taken apart to lower from ceiling and not put back together, not sure if pump is still with unit. Or we could just take to the scrap metal pile at landfill.

7: Pop Machine – The old orange crush pop machine has been sitting on ice pad not used for 6 years and moved numerous times. Start bidding at \$200.00

8: Vactron – This is that vacuum trailer unit that has only been used for its intended purpose a couple times in 6 years. This machine in my opinion is a WSIB case waiting to happen as it is hard on the workers back, shoulders and knees. The suction hose is draped over the operators shoulder and the hose held with your hands. Once the hose fills up with the water and dirt being excavated it forces the operator down towards the ground. We could start bidding at \$10,000.00 on GovDeals

9: Sreco Sewer Flusher – Using this machine requires the use of a vacuum truck and if renting a vacuum truck, they can do the flushing and vacuuming at same time. In the past 6 years this unit has been used once for flushing a storm sewer and was also tried to unplug a culvert filled by a beaver (unsuccessful). Starting bid at \$2000.00

10: Time Clock – The time clock/score board at arena. Online selling for \$4500.00, suggest start bidding at \$3000.00

11: Aluminum Advertising board – This unit was at arena and displayed advertisements and events on ice service. This unit has been sitting in the very west bay of municipal garage for over 6 years. Start bidding at \$ 300.00

We also have the old sanding truck and lawn mowers to sell that have already been deemed surplus last fall.

Thank You

Mark Brown

IMPORTANT: PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY MAY 10, 2024.

March 1, 2024

Sylvie Cote
Township of McGarry
Box 99
Virginiatown, ON P0K 1X0

We would like to express our appreciation for your past support of our KLDCS graduates and hope that you will be able to sponsor this award again this year. Our graduates are very appreciative of any financial support they receive as they work to achieve their post-secondary goals.

While we do not have individual presenters during our graduation ceremony, we would like to invite you to attend the ceremony. Please indicate below if you would like to attend and how many seats you would like to reserve. Seating is limited, so please only reserve seats if you are certain that you will be able to attend. This year's graduation is scheduled for **June 20, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** at Northern College.

Your award is now listed as follows. Please make any changes:

TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY AWARDS
To deserving applicants living in McGarry Township - \$100 each

Method of Payment: Please make cheque payable to **KLDCS Scholarship and Bursary Fund**

- Cheque enclosed Cheque to follow by _____
 E-transfer sent to kldcsscholarships@gmail.com

I would like to attend the ceremony and would require: 1 seat 2 seats

Name and phone number and/or email of contact person: _____

Yours truly,



Marc LaRouche, Chair, KLDCS Scholarship & Bursary Committee



École secondaire catholique l'Envolée du Nord

Julie Guertin, directrice
julie.guertin@cscdgr.education



Mayor and Council
Township of McGarry
P.O. Box 996
Virginiatown, ON
POK 1X0

March 1, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council:

The end of June is an important milestone for graduating high school students. This symbolic day, with the handing out of their diplomas, marks the end of many years of hard work.

Most graduates pursue post-secondary education because they believe this is their best opportunity to face the great challenges of today's society. Your financial support to a deserving student would be an excellent display of your confidence in our graduates' ability to face this future.

Once again, we ask for your support. We hope to receive your donation for the ceremony which will be held in the school cafeteria on June 19, 2024. Could you also please identify the representative that will be making the presentation on behalf of yourself or your company.

We thank you greatly for your generosity and hope to continue receiving your precious support. The committee extends their best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

Casey Owens/Francine Plante
Graduation Committee Bursary

Township of McGarry
P.O. Box 996
Virginiatown, ON
P0K 1X0

Bursary – June 2024

Bursaries/Prizes: \$ _____

Number of bursaries: _____

Criteria:

Name of person who will present the bursary: _____

Commencement exercises will take place at the school on June 19, 2024, at 6:30pm.

Please forward your reply by May 1st, 2024, to the Graduation Committee at Ecole secondaire catholique l'Envolée du Nord, 54 Duncan avenue, Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 1Y1 or by email at francine.plante1@cscdgr.education.

#5 (a)



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in person in the meeting room or by phone.

1. Opening of Meeting and Call to Order:

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: Mayor took a roll call:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clerk-Treasurer – Karine Pelletier
Public Works Superintendent – Mark Brown

Members of the audience present: 6

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

59/2024
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 12, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

- Councillor Louanne Caza declared a conflict on item #12 (a) By-Law to Establish pay grids.
- Mayor Bonita Culhane declared conflict on item #10 (g) Township Insurance.
- Councillor Francine Plante declared a conflict on item #10 (l) Letter from Tourist Committee requesting in kind donation.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

60/2024
Regular Minutes

THAT the minutes for the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 13, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

61/2024
Closed Meeting Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Close Meeting of Council held on November 28, 2023, December 12, 2023, January 9, 2024 and February 13, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations / Delegations:

-J.L. Richards (Sarah Verreault) – Update on the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law and on Strat6gic Plan.

8. Correspondence / Information:

- a) Ministry of Transportation – Licence Plate Renewal.
- b) Public Works Superintendent – Half Loads Discussion.
- c) Ministry of Finance – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) update.
- d) Timiskaming Health Unit – Merger Update.
- e) Treasury Board Secretariat – Approval letter for Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (“CEPG”) Program.
- f) Timiskaming Health Unit – Update on Community Safety and Well-Being Committee.

9. Members Update Reports :

Mayor and Members of Council gave a verbal report.

10. New Business :

- a) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

62/2024
Recreation Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee held on January 15, 2024, and February 6, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

63/2024
Policing Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Community Policing Committee Meeting held on January 8, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

64/2024
Tourist Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Committee Meeting held on October 4, 2023 and on February 7, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

65/2024
Time Change Committee meetings

THAT Council agrees with the request from the Community Policing Committee and the Tourist Centre Committee to change their monthly meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. effective immediately.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

66/2024
Library Board Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Library Board Meeting held on January 29, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- f) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

67/2024
Cyient Request

THAT Council agrees with the proposal work and MC Permit request from Cyient to install a short section of underground conduit from an existing Bell pole onto the property of the Township bring fiber optics connection to the area in hopes of improving our service.

Carried

- g) Mayor Culhane declared a conflict of interest and left the room. Councillor Annie Keft took over the chair of as Deputy Mayor.

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

68/2024
MIS Insurance

THAT Council read the report and directs the Clerk to purchase facility user annual low risk event liability insurance at a cost of approximately \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00 a year.

Carried

Mayor Culhane came back to the meeting room.

- h) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

69/2024
OCWA Report

THAT Council read the 2023 Annual/Summary report received from Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **70/2024**
Seconded by Councilor Louanne Caza **Strategic Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee held on January 23, 2024, be approved.

Carried

- j) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **71/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **New Member Strategic Planning**

THAT Council accepts the recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee to add Wendy Weller as a new member on the Committee.

Carried

- k) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **72/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **UCFO**

THAT Council agrees to grant L'Union Culturelle des Franco-Ontariennes of Virginiatown the use of the meeting room free of charge to hold a Bingo on April 28th and on June 2nd, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Carried

- l) Councillor Francine Plante declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **73/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Tourist Letter**

THAT Council agrees to grant in kind donation (cups, shirt, ect...) to the Tourist Committee for door prizes for their season Opening.

Carried

Councillor Francine Plante came back to the meeting room.

- m) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **74/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **New Member Tourist Committee**

THAT Council accepts the recommendation from the Tourist Centre Committee to add Wendy Weller as a new member of the committee.

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **75/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Accounts**

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

FEBRUARY 2024

Payroll: \$ 24,704.04
General: \$ 139,933.45

Carried

12. Passing of By-Laws:

- a) Councillor Louanne Caza declared a conflict of interest and left the room.

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

76/2024
By-Law 2024-10

THAT a By-Law to amend By-Law 2001-03 being a By-Law to establish pay grids for employees of the Township of McGarry be read three times and passed this 12th day of March 2024 and be numbered By-Law 2024-10.

Carried

Councillor Louanne Caza came back to the meeting room.

- b) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

77/2024
By-Law 2024-11

THAT a By-Law to allow for Temporary Borrowing with Royal Bank be read three times and passed this 12th day of March 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-11.

Carried

13. a) Submitted Questions : None

- b) **Audience Questions:** A question period was held.

14. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

78/2024
Closed Meeting

THAT Council goes into closed session at 7:15 p.m. under the Municipal Act 2001. C25, s 239, Section (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

79/2024
Out of Close Session

THAT Council come out of close session at 8:20 pm.

Carried

15. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

80/2024
Confirmation By-Law

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 12th day of March 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-12.

Carried

16. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

81/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Carried


MAYOR


CLERK-TREASURER

5 (b)



Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday March 14th, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber via phone.

1. Opening of Meeting and call to order:

Mayor Culhane called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: The Mayor took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clerk-Treasurer - Karine Pelletier
Jay Meunier and David Carrier – Meunier Carrier Lawyers

Members of the audience present: 0

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic	82/2024
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza	Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Special Meeting of Council held on March 14, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest: None

5. Deputations, Delegations, and Petitions: None

6. Correspondence, Information: None

7. **New Business: None**

8. **Passing of By-Laws: None**

9. **Closed Meeting:**

Move by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

83/2024
Closed Session

THAT Council goes into closed session at 5:01 p.m. under the municipal Act 2001. C25, s 239, Section (2) (B) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees- To discuss an employee matter.

Carried

Council discussed with Jay Meunier and David Carrier of Meunier and Carrier Law a employee matter and termination of employment.

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

84/2024
Out of Closed Session

THAT Council come out of closed session at 6:28 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

85/2024
Legal Counsel

THAT Council met with Legal Counsel regarding the termination of an employee and direct the Clerk to send the letter to the employee.

Carried

10. **Confirmation By-Law:**

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

86/2024
By-Law 2024-13

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 14th day of March 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-13.

Carried

11. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

87/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Carried


MAYOR


CLERK-TREASURER