

Community Merger Update

Date: September 2025

Northeastern Public Health strives to strengthen public health in Northeastern Ontario. We are committed to transparent communication, fostering a positive and inclusive culture, and optimizing our resources to deliver resilient and responsive public health programs and services for the best possible health outcomes in the diverse communities we serve.

Northeastern Public Health (NEPH) merger updates are expected to be shared quarterly with municipalities, First Nations communities, and community partners.

Questions or comments can be sent to Rachelle Côté (Rachelle.Cote@neph.ca) or Lori McCord (Lori.McCord@neph.ca).

Where are we now?



- The Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit took part in an orientation to public health. Loretta Ryan, CEO, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), and Monika Turner, owner of *Roving Capacity*, a public policy consulting and facilitation business, presented on public health governance at the orientation.



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- Team integrations are ongoing.
- Staff and the Board of Health were involved in determining the NEPH logo. Stay tuned for the official public launch!
- Two sessions were offered for Municipal Chief Administrative Officers, clerks, and Mayors from across the region to attend an informational meeting pertaining to the merger and finances.
- The NEPH leadership team has harmonized.

NEPH Leadership Team

Rosa Montico-Reimer
Director of Finance

Chantal Riopel
Director of Strategic Support &
Emergency Preparedness

Kendra Luxmore
Director of Health Promotion

Tina Brunet
Manager of Transition and Healthy
Families

Lynn Leggett
Manager of Communicable Diseases

Kassandra Plante
Manager of Sexual Health &
Community Immunizations

Jennifer Cardinal
Manager of Schools & Dental Health

Randy Winters
Director of Corporate Services

Dr. Kristin Vaga
Public Health Physician/Director of
Health Protection

Jason LeBlanc
Manager of Human Resources

Erin Cowan
Health Protection Integration Advisor

Suzanne Lajoie
Manager of Environmental Health

Krista Green
Manager of Substance Use & Harm
Reduction Programs

Amanda Mongeon
Manager of Community Health

1-877-442-1212

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Communities and Public Health

- NEPH celebrated its first Canadian Public Health Week in April, which helped raise awareness for the importance of public health in our communities and recognized staff's contributions to improving local public health outcomes.

Next steps

- Continuing to integrate teams and programs.
- Finalizing NEPH branding and planning for a public campaign to launch the logo.
- Planning for further community engagement.

Messaging for your community members

- The NEPH phone system has been upgraded to better serve our communities. All individual telephone extensions have changed. You can still reach us toll-free at 1-877-442-1212 and your call will be directed to the right place. This upgrade will help ensure more dependable and efficient communication moving forward.
- Office locations will stay the same. Programs and services also stay the same, unless otherwise notified. Our public health work remains focused on addressing local priorities and will adapt to meet the everchanging needs of our communities.
- Staff will continue to engage with the public, community partners, First Nations communities, and municipalities to provide updates and maintain strong local connections.

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- Harmonizing all programs and services will take time and it is likely that each community will differ slightly in the programs and services they receive based on local need.
- Councillor Rock Whissel has joined the Board of Health as a Timmins representative.

Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit Orientation (March 2025)



Strengthening public health in Northeastern Ontario

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MINUTES

Northeastern Public Health Board of Health

Regular Meeting held on June 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

1.0 **ROLL CALL**

Board of Health Members

Michelle Boileau	City of Timmins
Andrew Marks	City of Timmins
Jeff Laferriere	Temiskaming Shores
Carol Lowery	Rural South: Armstrong, Brethour, Casey, Cobalt, Coleman, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, Kerns, Latchford, Temagami, Thornloe
Paul Kelly	Rural Central South: Charlton & Dack, Chamberlain, Englehart, Evanturel, Gauthier, James, Larder Lake, McGarry, Matachewan
Marc Dupuis	Rural North: Fauquier-Strickland, Hornepayne, Hearst, Mattice Val Cote, Moonbeam, Opasatika, Val Rita Harty
Casey Owens	Kirkland Lake
Peter Politis	Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls
Savion Nakogee	Rural Far North: Moosonee, James Bay and Hudson Bay region
Cindy Marks-Campbell	Provincial Appointee
Todd Steis	Provincial Appointee
David Lowe	Provincial Appointee
Tory Delaurier	Rural Central North: Iroquois Falls, Black River Matheson
Suzanne Perras	Provincial Appointee
Curtis Arthur	Provincial Appointee
Rock Whissell	City of Timmins

Northeastern Staff Members

Dr. Lianne Catton	Medical Officer of Health/Chief Executive Officer
Rosa Montico-Reimer	Director of Finance
Lori McCord	Executive Assistant
Rachelle Cote	Executive Assistant

Regrets

Mark Wilson	Temiskaming Shores
Gary Fortin	Kapuskasing
Cathy Dwyer	Provincial Appointee
Randy Winters	Director of Corporate and Protection Services

- 1.1 **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Boileau called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.
- 1.2 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
MOTION #37-R-2025
Moved by: Paul Kelly
Seconded by: Andrew Marks
That the agenda for the Board of Health meeting on June 12, 2025, be approved as amended.

CARRIED
- 1.3 **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE**
None declared.
- 2.0 **PREVIOUS MINUTES**
- 2.1 **NEPH BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES – MAY 8, 2025**
MOTION #38-R-2025
Moved by: Marc Dupuis
Seconded by: Cindy Marks-Campbell
That the Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit approve the minutes for the meeting dated May 8, 2025.

CARRIED
- 3.0 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, DISCUSSION, DECISION**
- 3.1 **ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES AGM**
- 3.1.1 **ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES (alpha) – 2025**
RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
Dr. Catton reviewed the four resolutions that will be brought forward for consideration and vote at the AGM on June 12-14, 2025:

MOTION #39-R-2025
Moved by: Tory Delaurier
Seconded by: Jeff Laferriere
THAT the Board of Health agree with the guidance on voting on alpha's 2025 Resolutions for Consideration at the AGM next week.

CARRIED

3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

Dr. Catton provided an update of the Pine St. Timmins HVAC system and the current delays. The work has been postponed to fall 2025. A backup plan is in place for the immunization clinics season.

New building: the application is due in July 2025. Management has not been successful in recruiting a project manager at this time. Dr. Catton and Human Resources are looking at other potential opportunities. A small board working group will be selected to proceed with the next steps. Dr. Catton will continue to inform the board as needed. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes.

3.3 AUDIT UPDATE

Dr. Catton provided an update on the 2024 fiscal year audit process and progress. The presentation and financial statements of both legacy health units will likely be postponed to the September meeting due the complexity of the merger. Should the processes be completed over the summer months, the Board of Health may be called for a special meeting to review and approve. The ministry has been advised and has approved the delay.

3.4 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit received the Finance Committee Minutes of March 31, 2025, for information purposes.

4.0 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Dr. Catton presented an update on the organization and shared recent highlights of services and programs. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes.

Mr. Marks and Mrs. Marks-Campbell left the meeting at 4:58 pm.

5.0 NEPH MERGER-TRANSITION REPORT

Dr. Catton provided an update on the merger transition. The enclosed presentation summarizes the main points shared for information purposes.

6.0 CLOSED SESSION

N/A

7.0 **RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION**

N/A

8.0 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was received for information purposes.

Air Quality Alerts:

Dr. Catton highlighted the notice sent to local communities. A live dashboard on the current air quality is a great resource for partners to access as required, [LTHU](#) and [LPHU](#).

9.0. **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Board of Health to be held on September 25, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

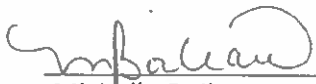
MOTION #40-R-2025

Moved by: Curtis Arthur

Seconded by: Todd Steis

THAT the meeting of the Board of Health adjourns at 5:18 pm.

CARRIED



Michelle Boileau, Board Chair

Lori McCord, Recorder, Rachelle Cote, Recorder

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de
la nature et des Parcs

Drinking Water and Environmental
Compliance Division, Northern Region
Timmins District, North Bay Office
191 Booth Road, unit 16-17
North Bay ON P1A 4K3
Tel.: 705 497-6865
Fax: 705 497-6866

Division de la conformité en matière d'eau potable
et d'environnement, Direction régionale du Nord
District de Timmins, Bureau de North Bay
191, rue Booth, Unité 16-17
North Bay ON P1A 4K3
Tél. : 705 497-6865
Téléc. : 705 497-6866

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(sent by e-mail only)

Date: September 26, 2025

Re: Updates to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Compliance Policy – Potential for Low-Risk Incident Referrals to Municipalities

On June 4, 2025, the Government of Ontario [announced updates](#) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' [compliance policy](#). [A notice outlining the decision can be found here](#). These changes will allow the ministry to focus on higher-risk events, such as spills that could harm human health, while referring low-risk incidents that do not impact human health or the environment, such as construction noise, via referral to more appropriate regulatory authorities, including municipalities. Further details on the new incident referral assessment process can be found in section 4.2 of the updated compliance policy.

The updates to the compliance policy will clarify roles and responsibilities between the ministry and municipalities to avoid duplication and reduce burden on the regulated community by simplifying compliance oversight for low-risk activities. These changes will strengthen collaboration between the ministry and municipalities, while also improving service for members of the public by clarifying which regulator is responsible for responding to an incident.

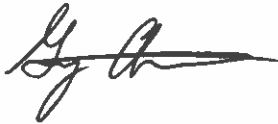
Listed below are types of complaints that the ministry will typically consider for referral to municipalities:

1. Odours - Reports of odours from restaurants, food preparation, construction/demolition/maintenance activities, vehicles, or residential sources.
2. Noise - Reports of noise from air conditioning and heating, vehicles, residences, pets, construction activities, music festivals and outdoor events.
3. Dust - Reports of general or road dust resulting from development or construction/demolition sites, stone cutting, or complaints of off-site dust generated from a neighbour's construction activities.
4. Waste - Reports of littering, abandoned vehicles, and small quantities of solid non-hazardous waste dumping.
5. Water – Reports of discharges to municipal sewers, oil leaking from vehicles to roadway/sewers, and problems with private ponds.

Please note: if a low-risk incident persists long term escalates to a community-level concern, or becomes linked to health impacts, the ministry will re-evaluate the risk and may take further action. Additionally, if a municipality lacks the capacity to carry out compliance and enforcement activities for a referred incident, the ministry may intervene if the risk level is deemed sufficiently high.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me via email at greg.ault@ontario.ca or by phone at 705-492-4673.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Ault', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Ault
Manager, Timmins District
Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Solicitor General

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132-2025-3641

By email

September 26, 2025

Dear Heads of Council and Chief Administrative Officers of OPP-Policed Municipalities:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has undertaken a review of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cost recovery model. I would like to extend my gratitude for your participation and input into this process.

I am writing to inform you that because of the review, regulatory amendments have been made to Ontario Regulation 413/23: Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from Ontario Provincial Police under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*. These amendments are in effect and will inform the 2026 annual billing statement to be issued shortly.

Firstly, an 11 per cent cap is established on the increase in policing costs owed by municipalities for the 2026 calendar year when compared to 2025, excluding the costs related to any service enhancements.

Secondly, a new discounts table will be established in regulation and will apply to the 2026 billing year and going forward. This new discount table introduces a lower eligibility threshold to receive a discount. Municipalities will now receive calls for service and overtime discounts when they are three or more standard deviations from the average calls for service weighted time to property count ratio, rather than the current regulatory threshold of five standard deviations.

The amendments have been approved by Cabinet and have been filed with the Registrar of Regulations. They will be accessed publicly online through the [e-Laws page](#) – and will be available here within the next few business days.

The preparation of 2026 annual billing statements is underway and statements are targeted for release in November 2025.

As we undertook this review, we heard loud and clear that greater clarity, predictability and stability in the OPP cost recovery model, and associated billing statements, is critical to municipalities as annual budget processes are undertaken. These amendments were contemplated, and ultimately decided upon, based on those concerns and the direct feedback that we heard from OPP-policed municipalities.

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Should you have any questions about the regulatory updates, please reach out to solgeninput@ontario.ca.

Please direct any questions about your annual billing statements to the Crime Prevention and Community Support Bureau at opp.municipalpolicing@opp.ca.

Thank you again for your partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Kerzner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner
Solicitor General

c: Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety
Ministry of the Solicitor General

Thomas Carrique, C.O.M.
Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police