



**Northwestern  
Health Unit**

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**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE  
NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT**

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting  
March 3, 2023  
Electronic Meeting

**PRESENT:** Doug Lawrance, Trudy Sachowski, Nicole Brown, Wendy Brunetta, Bob Bernie, Bekkie Vineberg, Jamie Kristoff

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marilyn Herbacz, CEO  
Kit Young Hoon, MOH  
Lindsay Koch

**GUESTS:**

LBCG Consulting for Impact (item 5.1)  
Alex Berry – Manager, Communications & Foundations Services (items 5.1 and 8.2)  
Gillian Lunny – Manager, Sexual Health & Harm Reduction (item 5.1)  
Lindsay Burry – Health Promoter (item 5.1)  
Dorian Lunny – Epidemiologist (item 8.2)

**REGRETS:** Janelle Zacharias

**ABSENT:** Kaitlyn Cottam

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 8:30am

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 13-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>T. Sachowski W. Brunetta</b>
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated March 3, 2023 be approved.	

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None.

**4. MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING, January 27, 2023**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 14-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>N. Brown T. Sachowski</b>
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health meeting held January 27, 2023 be approved as written.	

**5. IN CAMERA**

<p><b>Motion / Resolution: # 15-2023</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>W. Brunetta</b> <b>N. Brown</b></p>
<p>THAT pursuant to section 239 of the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the Board move to an in-camera session at 8:37am to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education / Orientation for Board Members (1 item: Supervised Consumption Services Feasibility Study)</li> <li>• A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, or financial information that belongs to the Board and has monetary value or potential monetary value (1 item: Part 8 fees)</li> </ul>	

*Trudy Sachowski left the meeting at 9:44am*  
*LBCG, Gillian Lunny, and Lindsay Burry left the meeting at 10:12am*

<p><b>Motion / Resolution: # 16-2023</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>B. Bernie</b> <b>N. Brown</b></p>
<p>THAT the Board of Health move out of in-camera and resume the regular meeting at 10:21am</p>	

*Bob Bernie left the meeting at 10:21am.*  
*Trudy Sachowski returned to the meeting at 10:28am*  
*Dorian Lunny joined the meeting at 10:30am and left at 10:58*  
*Alex Berry left the meeting at 10:58*

**6. aIPHa UPDATES**

**6.1 aIPHa Updates**

Trudy shared a written report with the Board via email. In addition, Trudy shared her appreciation for the support received from fellow Board of Health members and NWHU administration going into the 2023 aIPHa Winter Symposium held February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**6.2 aIPHa Member Municipal Conference Attendance**

Trudy, as president of aIPHa, will attend the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) conference in Thunder Bay, in April, in addition to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in London, in August.

aIPHa’s Executive Director, Loretta Ryan, will attend the NOMA conference to present on public health and the built environment.

<p><b>Motion / Resolution: # 17-2023</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>N. Brown</b> <b>W. Brunetta</b></p>
<p>THAT the February 2023 aIPHa Update be received.</p>	

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 18-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>N. Brown W. Brunetta</b>
<p>WHEREAS the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit has endorsed Trudy Sachowski as the Northwest representative for the alPHA Board of Directors; and</p> <p>WHEREAS Boards of Health in Ontario with appointees on alPHA's Board of Directors agree to support the work of their appointee financially; and</p> <p>WHEREAS Trudy Sachowski is the current President of alPHA and is a true champion for public health in the north and across the province;</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit hereby approves Trudy Sachowski's attendance at the Northern Ontario Municipal Association Conference in Thunder Bay, Ontario in April 2023, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in London, Ontario in August 2023;</p> <p>AND FURTHER, that all costs associated with attendance at these conferences be covered by Northwestern Health Unit.</p>	

## 7. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

### 7.1 CEO & Finance Report *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2023.01.27-9.1; the report will be kept on file.*

Marilyn highlighted that the deadline for the budget has been extended by the Ministry, to April 3, 2023. The Board passed a resolution approving the 2023 budget in November 2022. If there are no changes to the numbers, the budget will be signed off by the Board Chair and CEO. If there are any revisions, it will be brought forward to the Board for re-approval at the March meeting.

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 19-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>T. Sachowski J. Kristoff</b>
<p>THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2023.03.03-8.1      CEO &amp; Finance Report</li> </ul>	

## 8. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

### 8.1 Medical Officer of Health Update - *Deferred to March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board.*

### 8.2 Epidemiology Program Overview

Dorian Lunny, one of NWHU's Epidemiologists, joined the meeting to provide an overview of epidemiology, how this work is done at NWHU, and how it serves to inform the work we do in public health, funding needs, and demonstrates the return on investment in public health.

Highlights of the presentation included the most recent data available in the NWHU area for causes of death, and hospitalization rates for various reasons such as cardiovascular disease, falls/injuries, self-harm etc. compared with the rates for Ontario. The general trend is that rates are higher in the NWHU catchment area than in the province for causes of death and hospitalization. Of note, comparisons with other northern health units such as Thunder Bay District and Porcupine health units demonstrate more similarities in these rates compared with the province.

The Board shared their appreciation for local epidemiology, and note the importance of having this function within NWHU that enables us to communicate data and data collection at a local level.

Dorian shared that one of the goals of the program is to utilize the new NWHU website to share local epidemiological information with the public.

**8.3 Update to Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health Report** *Dr. Young Hoon, Medical Officer of*

*Health on behalf of Julie Slack – Acting Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention. Reference #2023.01.27-10.3; The report will be kept on file.*

Dr. Young Hoon provided a brief overview of the new alcohol guidelines and the importance of labelling alcohol for health risks to achieve more responsible consumption and prevention of alcohol-related health harms. To date, two other Ontario health units have passed resolutions to support the labelling of alcohol products.

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 20-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>T. Sachowski B. Vineberg</b>
<p>WHEREAS, the Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health plays an essential role in fostering community health and has a mandate to inform the public of the health risks and alcohol-related harms associated with drinking alcohol; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, alcohol is a leading preventable cause of death, disability, injuries, accidents and social problems;<sup>2</sup> and</p> <p>WHEREAS, alcohol is the direct cause of over 60 chronic diseases<sup>3</sup>, including at least seven types of cancer;<sup>4-6</sup> and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the NWHU catchment area has the highest rates in the province for ER visits<sup>8</sup> and hospitalizations<sup>9</sup> attributable to alcohol; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the proportion of NWHU residence who self-report heavy drinking is 20.2%, statistically higher than the province at 15.6%;<sup>10</sup> and</p> <p>WHEREAS, comprehensive alcohol strategies, such as mandatory labelling of alcoholic beverages are recommended for reducing alcohol consumption, and acute and chronic alcohol-related harms; <sup>11-13</sup> and</p> <p>WHEREAS, evidence has shown that, alcohol labels in the form of standard drink labels and health warning labels are effective at assisting</p>	

consumers in monitoring their consumption, raising public awareness about alcohol-related harm, and mitigating risks. 2, 14-20

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) Board of Health call on the Government of Canada to amend the Food and Drug Act to make mandatory that all alcohol beverage containers have enhanced alcohol labels affixed:

1. Indicating what constitutes a standard drink;
2. Illustrating the number of standard drinks in the beverage container; and
3. Displaying health messages regarding adverse health outcomes, including the cancer risks associated with the consumption of alcohol.

AND FURTHER THAT, the Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health endorse, in principle, 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.

AND FURTHER THAT, a copy of this endorsement be forwarded to:

- 1) Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- 2) Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health
- 3) Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
- 4) Hon. Kevin Holland, Member of Provincial Parliament, Thunder Bay - Atikokan
- 5) Hon. Greg Rickford, Member of Provincial Parliament, Kenora - Rainy River
- 6) Hon. Marcus Powlowski, Member of Parliament, Thunder Bay - Rainy River
- 7) Hon. Sol Mamakwa, Member of Provincial Parliament, Kiiwetinoong
- 8) Hon. Eric Melillo, Member of Parliament, Kenora
- 9) Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- 10) Ontario Boards of Health
- 11) Canadian Public Health Association
- 12) Rainy River District Ontario Health Team
- 13) All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team
- 14) Kiiwetinoong Healing Waters Ontario Health Team

*Wendy Brunetta left the meeting at 11:49am*

**8.4 Vaccination Catch-Up Updates** *Dr. Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health on behalf of Shannon Brown, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Reference #2023.03.03-8.4; The report will be kept on file.*

**8.5 Respiratory Virus Report** *Dr. Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2023.03.03-8.5; The report will be kept on file.*

**8.6 Global Measles Situation Update** *Dr. Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health on behalf of Donna Stanley –Manager, Infectious Diseases Reference #2023.03.03-8.6; The report will be kept on file.*

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 21-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>J. Kristoff B. Vineberg</b>
THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023.03.03-8.3 Update to Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health</li> <li>• 2023.03.03-8.4 Routine and School Vaccination Catch-up Updates</li> <li>• 2023.03.03-8.5 Respiratory Virus Report</li> <li>• 2023.03.09-8.6 Global Measles Situation Update</li> </ul>	

9. **AMENDMENTS:** None.

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE**  
March 24, 2023 at 8:30am

11. **ADJOURNMENT**  
The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:53am

**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:**

**CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN**

**THIS .....24..... DAY OF ....MARCH.....2023**

  
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**MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH**

  
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**RECORDER**