

## Board Correspondence

March 2023

| Date              | From                              | Subject  |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| February 14, 2023 | aPHa                              | <a href="#">February InfoBreak</a>   |
| February 21, 2023 | Public Health Sudbury & Districts | 2022 District Area Snapshots of Public Health for the <a href="#">Chapleau</a> , <a href="#">LaCloche Foothills</a> , <a href="#">Manitoulin Island</a> , and <a href="#">Sudbury East</a> areas and the <a href="#">COVID-19 Response by the Numbers and Recovery Progress Report</a> |
| February 24, 2023 | Public Health Sudbury & Districts | Resolution #08-23: Community Engagement to Address Food Insecurity.  |
| February 24, 2023 | Public Health Sudbury & Districts | Resolution #11-23: Provincial Funding for Consumption and Treatment Services.  |



**Public Health  
Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

February 24, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Community Engagement to Address Food Insecurity**

At its meeting on February 16, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #08-23:

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, in recognition of the root causes of food insecurity, call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance levels; and*

*THAT the Board of Health reaffirm its support for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) resolutions [A18-02](#) (Minimum Wage that is a Living Wage) and [A15-04](#) (Basic Income Guarantee); and*

*THAT the Board of Health intensify its work with relevant area agencies and community groups, and municipalities to shift the focus of food insecurity initiatives from food charity to income-based solutions, including but not limited to the sharing of data and evidence-based income solutions; and*

*FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts Board share this motion with area partners, Ontario boards of health, ALPHA, and the relevant provincial government ministers.*

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Letter to Premier Ford  
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The health consequences of food insecurity have serious adverse effects on people's physical and mental health and the ability to lead productive lives. Ontarians living with food insecurity are at greater risk for numerous chronic conditions including mental health disorders, non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease), and infections.<sup>1</sup> People who have chronic conditions and are food insecure are more likely to have negative disease outcomes, be hospitalized, or die prematurely.<sup>2</sup>

The health consequences of food insecurity are a significant burden on our province's healthcare and social service system. Adults in food insecure households are more likely to be admitted to acute care; they also may stay in hospital for a longer period and are more likely to be readmitted.<sup>3</sup> Income-based policies that effectively reduce food insecurity offset considerable public expenditures on healthcare and social services in Ontario by reducing demands on these services and reducing costs.

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: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
France G linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
All Ontario Boards of Health  
Constituent Municipalities

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<sup>1</sup> Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved 15 February 2023 from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>.

<sup>2</sup> Tarasuk V, Li T, Fafard St-Germain AA. (2022). Household food insecurity in Canada, 2021. Toronto: Research to identify policy options to reduce food insecurity (PROOF). Retrieved 16 February 2023 from <https://proof.utoronto.ca/>.

<sup>3</sup> Tarasuk V. Implications of a basic income guarantee for household food insecurity. Northern Policy Institute – Research Paper No. 24. Retrieved 16 February 2023 from: <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Paper-Tarasuk-BIG-EN-17.06.13-1712.pdf>



**Public Health**  
**Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

February 24, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Provincial Funding for Consumption and Treatment Services**

At its meeting on February 16, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #11-23:

*WHEREAS as recognized by motion [14-21](#), Sudbury and districts continue to experience an opioid crisis with the second highest opioid-related death rate in Ontario; and*

*WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require boards of health to collaborate with health and social service partners to develop programs and services to reduce the burdens associated with substance use; and*

*WHEREAS evidence shows that supervised consumption sites, as a harm reduction strategy, reduce overdose deaths, increase access to treatment and other health and social services, reduce transmission of infectious diseases, including HIV and Hepatitis C, reduce public injection of drugs, and reduce publicly discarded hazardous syringes; and*

*WHEREAS the provincial application for approval and funding for Sudbury's Consumption and Treatment Services was submitted in August 2021 and the application remains under review; and*

*WHEREAS Réseau Access Network received the required federal exemption and has been operating Sudbury's supervised consumption services site since September 2022 with temporary operating funds provided by the City of Greater Sudbury; and*

*WHEREAS there is uncertainty about the future of supervised consumption services in Sudbury given the temporary nature of current municipal funding and the outstanding provincial application;*

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Letter to Premier of Ontario  
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*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health reaffirm motion [14-21](#), sounding the alarm on the local and regional opioid crisis – a crisis that has continued to intensify since 2021; and*

*THAT the Board of Health urge the provincial government to immediately approve funding for the Sudbury supervised consumption services site, operating as a Consumption and Treatment Services site under the Ontario model; and*

*FURTHER THAT this resolution be shared with relevant federal and provincial government ministers, area members of parliament and provincial parliament, local municipal leadership, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and boards of health.*

The worsening drug poisoning crisis in our community requires concerted efforts on behalf of many partners. The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is looking to the provincial government as one of these key partners.

In addition to the primary goal of saving lives, Consumption and Treatment Services decrease health care pressures by reducing emergency services and hospital utilization and decreasing the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C. They also facilitate referral to treatment for substance use and early treatment for other health concerns. Consumption and Treatment Services are an investment into the health of those that use the services and the health of our health care system.

The Board urges the provincial government to immediately approve and fund Sudbury's Consumption and Treatment Services site.

Thank you for your urgent and positive consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health  
Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions  
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada  
Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions  
Honourable Gwen Boniface, Order of Ontario, Senator  
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury  
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Marc G. Serré, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
Paul Lefebvre, Mayor, City of Greater Sudbury  
All Ontario Boards of Health