

# Media Release



## Restructuring and budget decrease announced for Public Health

### For immediate release

The provincial budget announced on April 11, 2019, outlined several significant changes to public health in Ontario. They included the restructuring of 35 local public health units to 10 regional entities with changes to the current governance structure. There is also a target of \$200 million dollars to be cut from the local public health system by 2021-22 as well as a proposed adjustment to the provincial-municipal cost-sharing of public health funding.

“There are still many unknowns in this process,” said Carman Kidd, Chair of the Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health. “As more details come out we look forward to being part of a dialogue with government and other partners to ensure the best possible outcome for residents in the community. Our goal is to ensure consistent, high-quality programs and services.”

“Although we have some concerns about the changes, we will work to support the implementation of this new system,” said Dr. Monika Dutt, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of the Health Unit. “We have already been collaborating with other northeastern health units and hope that this process can feed into the restructured system.”

“We know that public health programs and services are key to promoting and maintaining the health of local communities,” added Dutt. “We will monitor for further changes from government, and will adjust activities as required, knowing that we may be asked to continue offering a full scope of government-mandated services with fewer resources.”

Public health plays many roles in contributing to healthy communities through mandated programs. They collaborate with partners in order to ensure health considerations are key aspects in decision-making in a range of sectors including municipal government, schools, and workplaces. They also provide direct services, including supporting families through pregnancy and the early years, providing immunizations to infants and children and for travel, maintaining food and water safety, and managing outbreaks.

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