

## Board Correspondence

May 2022

Date	From	Subject
April 8, 2022	Peterborough Public Health	Ltr of support to Ministry of Health – Health and Racial Equity: Denouncing Acts and Symbols of Hate.

April 8, 2022

The Honourable Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
[christine.elliott@ontario.ca](mailto:christine.elliott@ontario.ca)

**Re: Health and Racial Equity: Denouncing Acts and Symbols of Hate**

Dear Minister Elliott:

At its meeting on March 9, 2022, the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health (PPH) considered correspondence from Sudbury & Districts Public Health (enclosed), and passed the following motion:

*That the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health:*

- *receive the letter dated February 23, 2022 from Sudbury & Districts Public Health for information;*
- *endorse the position from Sudbury & Districts, and the supporting statement from the Ontario Public Health Association dated January 31, 2022 given that PPH sees hate and discrimination as critical determinants of health requiring public health support and attention;*
- *commits to working internally and in our region on an on-going basis to actively counter hatred and discrimination; and,*
- *communicate this support by writing to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, with copies to Health with copies to the Association of Municipalities Ontario, the Ontario Public Health Association, local MPs and MPPs, and Ontario Boards of Health.*

The PPH Board of Health fully supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

***Original signed by***

Mayor Andy Mitchell  
Chair, Board of Health

/ag  
Encl.

cc: Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Public Health Association  
Local MPs and MPPs  
Ontario Boards of Health



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

February 23, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis  
President  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
480 University Avenue, Suite 300  
Toronto, ON M5G 1V2

Dear Dr. Roumeliotis:

**Re: Health and Racial Equity: Denouncing Acts and Symbols of Hate**

At its meeting on February 17, 2022, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts carried the following resolution #08-22:

*WHEREAS the reduction of health inequities is a goal of Ontario's public health programs and services as set out in the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), health equity is a Foundational Standard of the OPHS, and programs and services must be implemented in accordance with the Health Equity Guideline which includes the requirement to apply anti racist, anti-oppressive, and culturally safe approaches to public health practice; and*

*WHEREAS the Vision of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, Healthier communities for all, is further guided by its Mission and Strategic Plan, both of which prioritize action in support of health equity; and*

*WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is a leader among Ontario local public health agencies in their longstanding commitment to health and racial equity, including notably, the September 2019 endorsement of the Racial Equity Action Framework for Improved Health Equity; and*

*WHEREAS recent events in Ontario have included public displays of racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination, all detrimental to optimal health for all and prompting the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) on January 31, 2022, to issue the following statement:*

*While the right to protest is a fundamental element of our democracy, OPHA is disturbed by the hate filled racist and white supremacist symbols and messages flowing from the demonstrations in Ottawa. We denounce all forms of hate, bigotry, racism, antisemitism, and discrimination. Acts and*

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**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
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**Espanola**

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*symbols of hate are unwelcome and should not be tolerated. Silence is not acceptable. We urge political leaders from all levels & parties to speak out against such hate and racism, and to promote the importance of vaccines and other public health measures that are protecting all of us, especially the most vulnerable, against illness, hospitalization, & death. Change can only happen when we stand up and speak out. Let's work together to build a society that values diversity, inclusion, and optimal health for all.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse the January 31, 2022, statement of the OPHA; and*

*FURTHER THAT the Board of Health encourage other Ontario boards of health and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to do the same; and*

*FURTHER THAT that this resolution be shared with all boards of health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, area Honorable Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Association Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), among other stakeholders.*

A reduction of health inequities is a goal of Ontario's public health programs and services as set out in the OPHS. Both ALPHA and local Boards of Health have a long-standing history of supporting various health equity measures (e.g., food security, Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, living wage, low-income dental, use of a health equity lens, national pharmacare, extending the Ontario Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Nutritional Allowance). Thanks to efforts like these, public health addresses the social determinants of health and promotes health equity. There is still work to be done. Recent events in Ontario have included public displays of racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination, all detrimental to optimal health for all. In supporting health for all, it is important that public health not remain silent and instead state that acts and symbols of hate are unwelcome and should not be tolerated. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



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

cc: All Ontario Boards of Health  
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Pageen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association  
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
France G linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
Paul Lefebvre, Member of Parliament, Sudbury  
Marc Serr , Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Carol Hugues, Member of Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapusksing