

## Board Correspondence

March 2024

Date	From	Subject
February 21, 2024	Public Health Sudbury & Districts	Resolution: Gender-Based and Intimate Partner Violence.
February 29, 2024	City of Temiskaming Shores	Resolution #2024-062: Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention



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

February 21, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Gender-based and Intimate Partner Violence**

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am writing to advise you that the Board of Health is adding its voice to the concerns your government and so many other share concerning the escalating crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) in our province. We know that you agree that this is a matter of grave concern that demands immediate attention and collective effort.

At its meeting of January 18, 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts resolved to endorse the November 7, 2023, City of Greater Sudbury [motion](#) declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic:

*WHEREAS boards of health are required under the Ontario Public Health Standards to develop interventions to prevent injuries, including those caused by violence; and*

*WHEREAS police-reported family violence across Canada is increasing and locally, in 2022, the Greater Sudbury Police Service investigated 3,227 intimate partner violence reports, resulting in 867 intimate partner violence charges; and*

*WHEREAS in Sudbury, between 2018 and June 2023, there were 218 emergency department visits related to intimate partner violence; and*

*WHEREAS the [City of Greater Sudbury](#), [Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands](#), [Billings Township](#), and [93 other municipalities](#) in Ontario have declared gender-based violence and intimate partner violence as an epidemic; and*

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Letter to the Premier of Ontario  
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*WHEREAS calling out the urgency of the issue and denouncing violence contributes to changing norms and improving coordinated multi-sector action, ultimately improving health outcomes for those directly affected, as well as families and communities;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse the November 7, 2023, City of Greater Sudbury [motion](#) declaring gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence an epidemic.*

As your government will be aware, gender-based violence and intimate partner violence cause immeasurable harm to individuals, families, and communities. These types of violence impact people of all genders, ages, socioeconomic, racial, educational, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. However, the rates of GBV and IPV are disproportionately higher among women, girls, and gender-diverse people. For many, this is often interconnected with broader societal and systemic issues, including poverty, discrimination, lack of access to resources, inadequate support systems and a legacy of colonialism.

The Board of Health urges the provincial government to allocate the necessary resources, funding, and policy frameworks to reinforce our health and social services. We thank you for your attention to and investment in this urgent public health issue, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health for everyone.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre  
Chair, Board of Health

cc: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth  
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt  
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury  
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin  
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury  
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. Eileen DeVilla, Chair, Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)  
All Ontario Boards of Health  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies



The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores  
Regular Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024

## Resolution

### **Timiskaming Health Unit Resolution of Support – Public Health Strengthening and Chronic Disease Prevention (Correspondence from the January 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting)**

Resolution No. 2024-062

Moved by: Councillor Ducharme  
Seconded by: Councillor Wilson

Whereas the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is committed to ensuring it addresses the public health needs and health equity in its catchment area, as aligned with board of health requirements under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and Ontario Public Health Standards; and

Whereas Health Promotion Ontario's White Paper on the Value of Local Health Promotion in Ontario recommends strong and sustained investment in local health promotion by public health units to ensure that health promotion is prioritized on an ongoing basis; and

Whereas the Board recognizes that there are opportunities for system improvements as part of the review of board roles and responsibilities announced under the government's Public Health Strengthening initiative, including an assessment of its role in chronic disease prevention through health promotion interventions; and

Whereas chronic diseases are mostly preventable, are the cause of 75% of deaths in Ontario, and incur \$10.5 billion in direct health care costs in the province; and

Whereas as the scope and intensity of infectious disease risks increase in the context of finite resources, there is a risk of under-resourcing public health actions that work on longer horizon chronic disease prevention.

Be it resolved that Council for the City of Temiskaming Shores supports the Public Health Sudbury and District's call on all health system actors to remain committed to maintaining appropriate investments in health promotion and chronic disease prevention, while ensuring health risks associated with its health protection work are managed; and

Further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier/ Minister of Health; the Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; and the Timiskaming Health Unit.

**Carried**

Certified True Copy  
City of Temiskaming Shores

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Logan Belanger".

Logan Belanger  
Municipal Clerk