

## Board Correspondence January 2021

Date	From	Subject
December 4, 2020	PH Grey Bruce Health Unit	Ltr to Boards of Health – extra-legislative development of undefined regional initiatives that challenge and undermine the legal authority of local public health.
December 18, 2020	Daryl Kramp MPP for Hastings-Lennox and Addington	Ltr - Bill 216 - Food Literacy for Students Act.
December 20, 2020	Toronto Board of Health	Ltr – Opioid Poisoning Crisis in Toronto.
January 22, 2021	Temiskaming Shores	Resolution #2021-024 – Support of small businesses during COVID-19.

December 4, 2020



Dear Members of the Boards of Health:

I write on behalf of the Board of Health for Grey Bruce Health Unit to bring to your attention an issue of deep concern to public health units in Ontario: the extra-legislative development of undefined regional initiatives that challenge and undermine the legal authority of local public health boards, and negatively affect their effectiveness in addressing community health needs..

Regionalization generally means “an organizational arrangement involving the creation of an intermediary administrative and governance structure to carry out functions or exercise authority previously assigned to either central or local structures” as defined by *Church et al* 1998 in their publication on the subject - *Regionalization Of Health Services In Canada: A Critical Perspective*. By definition, regionalization entails the shifting of responsibility for provision of health service from local boards to a regional agency.

Whether one supports or opposes regionalization in principle, it is certain that one of the most important factors in determining the success or failure of regionalization is conducting adequate and thorough consultation with local stakeholders. Throughout the processes of planning, implementation and evaluation, consultation is crucial. Furthermore, it is indispensable that such consultation is in place to address equity between urban and rural communities.

“Regionalization creep” affecting health units in Ontario is currently underway. The 2019 provincial proposal of Public Health regionalization (modernization/merger/amalgamation of health units) lead to a directive from the Ministry of Health to conduct consultations with all Boards and Medical Officers of Health to decide on important aspects of regionalization. In March this year, while still in the early stages of discussion, the Ministry rightly placed consultations on hold due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Nevertheless, while consultations were ostensibly placed on hold, regionalization has informally, surreptitiously and progressively advanced. Within eight weeks in March and April of 2020, regional communication channels and regional pre-reporting structures (precursors to merger and amalgamation) were imposed between the South West LHIN (a functionary of Ontario Health) and almost all health organizations in Grey Bruce. These include regional initiatives such as the Triad Table and Grey Bruce Crisis Response group that duplicate public health work, including collaboration already being performed by the Grey Bruce Health Unit and other agencies. These redundant initiatives confer no discernible benefit. In fact, they pose the serious threat of harm by creating uncertainty among healthcare partners; roles, responsibility, and authority during the emergency response are weakened by dilution and diffusion of responsibility.

Most importantly, the reporting structures imposed under some regional initiatives is incongruent with the legal chain of authority outlined in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, the legislative framework under which public health operates. Neither the South West LHIN nor Ontario Health has legal jurisdiction over the activities or within the sphere of authority granted to local health units. For example, some proposed activities in the SW LHIN regional model require a Medical Officer of Health to follow direction from a “Regional Pandemic Public Health Lead” (a position and authority that do not exist in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* or at law). This undermines the authority of the local Board of Health.

*A healthier future for all.*

101 17<sup>th</sup> Street East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 0A5

[www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca](http://www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)



Furthermore, the creeping regionalization initiative countermands direction by the Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre and the Chief Medical Officer of Health. One example is the cap on the number of COVID-19 tests arbitrarily placed on Grey Bruce by the South West LHIN. At the same time, the Ministry of Health Emergency Operation Centre confirmed there were no caps on testing in place. The artificial LHIN cap resulted in the failure of the local system to meet the local health need in September. Approximately 30% of families in Grey Bruce did not have access to timely testing during the critical period of school reopening.

Although these regional channels, structures and initiatives were established under the slogan of “let’s collaborate to respond to the COVID emergency”, there are demonstrated negative consequences in the short-term. Potential harms grow when these artificial regional structures have no adequate checks and balances in place to meet the health need of the community in the long-term. A key underlying concern is that the development and design of these initiatives were not based on adequate and thorough consultation with local stakeholders, specifically Boards of Health. These activities were undertaken while the Board’s most pressing issue was our response to the pandemic emergency.

The Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit welcomes the opportunity to collaborate together with all the health system partners in a productive and professional manner. However, we differentiate collaboration from duplication, and from unilateral and potentially unlawful action. Ultra-legislative structures promoting and implementing unauthorized programs leads, in our view, to inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional encroachment upon the lawful mandate reserved to each Public Health Unit.

Our Board’s purpose in writing is twofold. First, to inform you about these developments in Grey and Bruce Counties, and second to raise the alarm that similar initiatives are likely to fall upon, or may be encroaching upon your own Health Unit. Our Board invites you to consider a collaborative dialogue to explore these serious concerns.

It is our Board’s hope that discussions will lead to awareness, planning and action to best position our organizations for success in continuing to address the health needs of our communities throughout the region and the province.

Sincerely,



Mitch Twolan, Chair  
Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit

CC: Minister of Health  
Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario  
MPP Bill Walker  
MPP Lisa Thompson  
Bruce County Warden  
Grey County Warden  
CEO for Erie St. Clair, South West, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant and Waterloo Wellington LHINs and Regional Lead West, Ontario Health

December 20, 2020

SENT VIA E-MAIL

**To:** Interested Parties

**Subject:** Opioid Poisoning Crisis in Toronto - Update (Item HL23.2) (see Part 13 of the Board of Health's decision on page 3 which is addressed to Interested Parties)

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**The Toronto Board of Health, during its meeting on November 16, 2020, adopted Item HL23.2, as amended, and:**

1. Reiterated its call urging the Federal Minister of Health to use the authority under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to permit the simple possession of all drugs for personal use, the need for which has become critical as the opioid poisoning crisis continues to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic and, further, to support the immediate scale up of prevention, harm reduction, and treatment services.
2. Urged the Federal Minister of Health to provide additional funding for longer-term safer supply programs, injectable medications, and other safer supply options, including for stimulants.
3. Reiterated its request urging the Provincial Minister of Health to:
  - a. convene a multi-sectoral opioid overdose task force comprised of public health officials, community-based service providers, people with lived and living experience of drug use, and family members;
  - b. support and fund the implementation of a spectrum of safer supply options, including listing high-dose injectable formulations of hydromorphone on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary; and
  - c. dedicate funding for overdose-related grief and trauma supports for frontline workers, people who use drugs, and family members.
4. Urged the Provincial Minister of Health to:
  - a. create and fund an Urgent Public Health Need Site (UPHNS) program for Ontario to facilitate the implementation of these lifesaving services in a variety of settings;



- b. provide funding to pilot and evaluate virtual and/or telephone-based supervised consumption services as well as in-person peer supervision in congregate or residential settings to complement the current service options;
  - c. allocate some of the new treatment funding recently announced to evidence-based, on-demand treatment services in Toronto; and
  - d. designate harm reduction and treatment services as essential services and provide funding to ensure that these services can effectively operate and meet the needs of people who use drugs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Requested the Provincial Minister of Health to reinstate funding for the Overdose Prevention Sites operated by Street Health and St. Stephen's Community House given the urgent and ongoing need for these lifesaving health services.
6. Requested the Provincial Minister of Health to expand the criteria for naloxone distribution to allow service providers to administer naloxone to clients in their programs.
7. Requested the Provincial Minister of Health to collect and provide socio-demographic data, such as sexual orientation, Indigenous identity, race or ethnicity, and income status, on fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Toronto to better understand who is being impacted to inform overdose responses.
8. Urged the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council to review the regulatory changes in British Columbia, consult with current safer supply prescribers about the regulatory issues they are facing, and advise the Provincial Ministry of Health and the relevant regulatory colleges on how to address regulatory uncertainties to support the expansion of safer supply initiatives in Ontario.
9. Requested the Medical Officer of Health to report on the status of conversations with the City of Toronto, enforcement agencies, and the Federal and Provincial Governments on decriminalizing the simple possession of drugs for personal use.
10. Requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to include the decriminalization of the simple possession of all drugs for personal use as a key plank in the City of Toronto's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan in recognition of the differential and negative impacts that this criminal law has on equity-seeking groups in Toronto such as Black and Indigenous peoples.
11. Requested the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to continue to work with community partners toward urgently expanding the overdose prevention response and other harm reduction measures in shelters.
12. Requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with community partners and City divisions on options to expand grief and trauma supports for people who use drugs, family members, and service providers who are impacted by the opioid poisoning

crisis.

13. Directed that the report (November 5, 2020) from the Medical Officer of Health be forwarded for information and consideration to all Boards of Health in Ontario, the Council of Medical Officers of Health, the Urban Public Health Network, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Ontario Medical Association, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

To view this item and background information online, please visit:

- <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.HL23.2>.

Yours sincerely,

*Julie Lavertu*

Julie Lavertu  
Board Secretary  
Toronto Board of Health

Sent (via e-mail) to the following individuals and organizations:

- Algoma Public Health Board of Health, c/o Lee Mason, Chair
- Brant County Board of Health, c/o John Bell, Chair
- Chatham-Kent Board of Health, c/o Councillor Joe Faas, Chair
- Durham Region Health and Social Services Committee, c/o Regional and Councillor Bob Chapman, Chair
- Eastern Ontario Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Syd Gardiner, Acting Chair
- Grey Bruce Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Mitch Twolan, Chair
- Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Mayor Kristal Chopp, Chair
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Doug Elmslie, Chair
- Halton Region Board of Health, c/o Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair
- Hamilton Board of Health, c/o Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Chair
- Hastings Prince Edward Public Health Board of Health, c/o Jo-Anne Albert, Chair
- Huron Perth Public Health Board of Health, c/o Councillor Kathy Vassilakos, Chair
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Deputy Warden - Frontenac Islands Denis Doyle, Chair
- Lambton County Board of Health, c/o Kevin Marriott, County Warden and Chair
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Doug Malanka, Chair
- Middlesex-London Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Maureen Cassidy, Chair
- Niagara Region Public Health & Social Services Committee, c/o Regional Councillor Pat Chiochio and Regional Councillor Barbara Greenwood, Co-Chairs
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Nancy Jacko, Chair
- Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Doug Lawrance, Chair
- Ottawa Board of Health, c/o Councillor Keith Egli, Chair

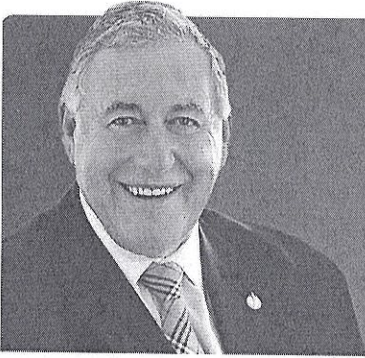


- Peel Board of Health, c/o Nando Iannicca, Regional Chair
- Peterborough Public Health Board of Health, c/o Mayor Andy Mitchell, Chair
- Porcupine Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Sue Perras, Chair
- Region of Waterloo Board of Health, c/o Karen Redman, Regional Chair
- Renfrew County and District Board of Health, c/o Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Deputy Mayor Anita Dubeau, Chair
- Southwestern Public Health Board of Health, c/o Warden Larry Martin, Chair
- Public Health Sudbury and Districts Board of Health, c/o Councillor René Lapierre, Chair
- Thunder Bay District Board of Health, c/o Councillor James McPherson, Chair
- Timiskaming Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Mayor Carman Kidd, Chair
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Board of Health, c/o Mayor and Councillor George Bridge, Chair
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health, c/o Warden Gary McNamara, Chair
- York Region Community and Health Services Committee, c/o Regional Councillor Gino Rosati, Chair
- Gordon Fleming, Manager, Public Health Issues, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Council of Medical Officers of Health
- Dr. Cory Neudorf, President, Urban Public Health Network
- Ian Culbert, Executive Director, Canadian Public Health Association
- Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
- Allan O'Dette, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Medical Association
- Dr. Doris Grinspun, Chief Executive Officer, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
- Peter Cuthbert, Interim Executive Director, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
- Jeff McGuire, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
- Carole Saab, Chief Executive Officer, Federation of Canadian Municipalities
- Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

cc (via e-mail):

- Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health





# DARYL KRAMP

MPP, Hastings–Lennox and Addington

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## *Greetings,*

I am contacting you today to introduce you to my Private Member's Bill. **Bill 216—Food Literacy for Students Act.** For those of you that are already aware and have reached out to my office with your support, I want to thank you.

For those who don't know, the purpose of the Bill is to require courses of study in experiential food literacy education from Grade 1 through Grade 12, wherein students are required to grow, prepare and learn about food in a hands-on fashion. Experiential food instruction in every grade starting in Grade 1 will allow students to learn how to make healthier food choices that are critical to life-long health.

**Bill 216—Food Literacy for Students Act** has currently passed Second Reading with overwhelming all-party support, and will be

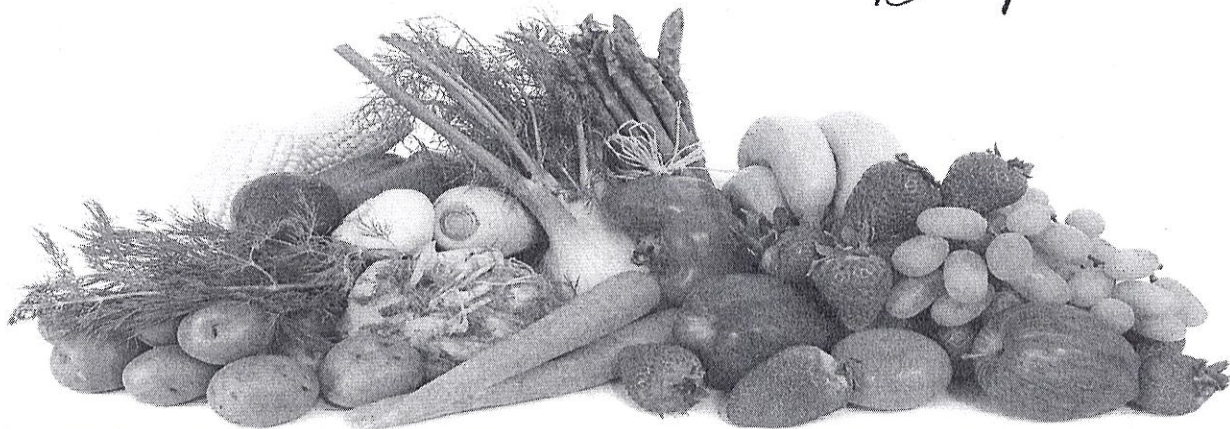
heading forward to Committee in the New Year. Support from individuals and organizations across the Province will help put Food Literacy into the Education curriculum.

I would be delighted if you would consider adding your support to **Bill 216, Food Literacy for Students Act.** Together we can raise awareness of the importance of food literacy and the food security that comes with it.

For more information please contact my office:  
[Daryl.Kramp@pc.ola.org](mailto:Daryl.Kramp@pc.ola.org)

Wishing you all the best for a Safe and Healthy holiday season. I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

Sincerely,



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Napanee: 8 Dundas St. W., Napanee, ON K7R 1Z4—Tel: 613-308-9625—Fax: 613-308-9685  
Email: [daryl.kramp@pc.ola.org](mailto:daryl.kramp@pc.ola.org) - Visit our website: [www.DarylKrampMPP.ca](http://www.DarylKrampMPP.ca)



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January 22, 2021

**Via Email:** MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca

Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister  
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
18th Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Fedeli:

Re: Request to Support Small Businesses

At the regular meeting on January 19, 2021, Council for the City of Temiskaming Shores adopted the enclosed resolution regarding support for small businesses.

Please accept this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Logan Belanger  
Municipal Clerk  
lbelanger@temiskamingshores.ca

Enclosure

C.c.

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction  
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health  
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
John Vanthof, MPP for Temiskaming-Cochrane  
Temiskaming Health Unit Board of Health  
Town of Kingsville



The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores  
Regular Meeting of Council  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021

**Resolution**

**Support – Town of Kingsville Request to Support Small Businesses**

Resolution No. 2021-024

Moved by: Councillor Jelly  
Seconded by: Councillor Whalen

Whereas at its meeting of December 14, 2020, Town of Kingsville Council approved a resolution in support of small businesses during COVID-19; and

Whereas the health and safety of Ontarians is the number one priority and health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease; and

Whereas many businesses rely on the holiday season for their financial strength and whereby these businesses have faced unprecedented difficult times throughout 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions; and

Whereas closing our small local businesses during the holiday season means many will not survive and business owners and their employees will lose their livelihoods; and

Whereas the Town of Kingsville's commercial businesses are predominately made up of small independently owned businesses and closing them will force residents to travel out of town into larger crowds increasing their exposure to COVID-19; and

Whereas our small independent businesses have every reason to keep customers safe and are able to ensure limited capacity, customer contact tracing and disinfecting in-between customers and may be able to offer curb-side and delivery.

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the City of Temiskaming Shores hereby supports the Town of Kingsville's call upon the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, as well as the Ontario cabinet and Health officials, to protect the health of Ontarians and our small businesses by allowing them to remain open to in-store sales and service with limited capacity and increased safety measures; and

Further that this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; Hon Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction; Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of



Health; Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Hon. Michael A. Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane; the Temiskaming Health Unit Board of Health; and the Town of Kingsville.

**Carried**

Certified True Copy  
City of Temiskaming Shores

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

Logan Belanger  
Municipal Clerk