

# Media Release



## **Provincial Election 2022: Get Informed, Get Involved, Go Vote! Public Health Matters.**

**May 16, 2022- For immediate release**

With the provincial election happening on June 2, Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) is reminding the community of the importance of voting, and of the ways that this election can affect the health of residents.

All levels of government play an important role in shaping policies that impact all aspects of our lives, including our health and the health of our communities. The provincial election is a chance to look at public health matters that affect our lives and future generations beyond health care. Provincial leaders can take actions that promote and protect the health and well-being of all people regardless of their economic and social status.

Based on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and on public health programs and services, THU recommends a list of ten issues and related actions be considered during the election and beyond: mental health, income security, paid sick days, housing, Indigenous health and well-being, anti-racism, opioids, infection prevention and control, oral health, and digital equity.

Voting is a way to let the government know how it should operate. Participating in democratic processes such as voting is also itself linked to health and well-being. However, some people face significant barriers to voting, which could result in government strategies and programs that are not representative of those who vote less. People under age 45 tend to be less likely to vote as are single people, particularly single parents with young children as well as people with lower levels of education, lower wealth, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and new Canadian citizens.

In the last provincial election, 53% of Timiskaming voters turned out to the polls compared to 57% across Ontario. "We know that voter turnout in Timiskaming is below average and we know that government strategies and programs have a powerful influence on the health and well-being of all members of our communities," says Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Timiskaming. "That's why, along with other health units in Ontario, THU launched a local campaign to share information about public health issues as well as about the importance of voting and supporting family, friends and neighbours to do the same," adds Corneil.

An information package will be sent to local candidates, and more information related to the provincial election and the Public Health Matters campaign can be found at [timiskaminghu.com](http://timiskaminghu.com) and will also be shared on Facebook and Twitter.

-30-

### **Media Contact:**

Susan Hall (she/her)  
Public Health Promoter  
705-647-4305, Ext. 2242  
Email: [halls@timiskaminghu.com](mailto:halls@timiskaminghu.com)

### **The pronouns of the person quoted in this article are:**

Dr. Glenn Corneil (he/him)