

Ottawa Public Health

2018 Budget Briefing Note

Description

The Ottawa Board of Health, through Ottawa Public Health (OPH), seeks to improve and advocate for the health and wellbeing of Ottawa residents and ensure the effective delivery of public health programs and services. The core functions of the public health unit are surveillance, health promotion, disease prevention and health protection. The Board of Health is established by the Ontario *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (R.S.O 1990, c.H.7, s.2) and is accountable for compliance with the Ontario Public Health Standards (2008), the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards (2011) and for reporting on the 2014-2016 Public Health Funding Accountability Agreement's¹ performance indicators and targets. In addition, OPH applies principles of best practice in governance to promote organizational excellence and contributes to a public health sector with a focus on performance, accountability and sustainability.

Programs/Services Offered

OPH ensures all program areas are supported to: base services on evidence, surveillance and local knowledge; plan and evaluate programs, including client and community perspectives; meet or exceed performance and quality standards; and address risks. Cross-department priorities are to advance Indigenous health equity and meet new legislated requirements for engagement with the health care sector. Knowledge exchange approaches are applied to inform employees and the community about health needs and effective strategies to address them, using a wide range of communications channels. The **Knowledge Exchange, Planning and Quality** service area supports these foundational functions.

¹ A new accountability agreement is expected to be developed to establish key operational and funding requirements between the MOHLTC and the Board. The time frame and contents of such agreement is not known at this time.

The **Health Protection** service area is responsible for Infection Prevention and Control, Sexual Health, Communicable Diseases, Outbreak Management, Harm Reduction and Substance Misuse, Food Safety, Safe Water, Healthy Hazard Prevention and Management, Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, Healthy Environments, and enforcement actions, including and related to tobacco and menu labeling legislation. Other key mandates of this service area include: continuing to advance relevant strategic directions, compliance and service delivery models, such as through the effective implementation of various aspects of our digital transformation strategy.

Health Promotion advocates for safe, supportive and healthy environments. This service area is responsible for programs associated with Healthy Growth and Development, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, School Health, Mental Health, Substance Use, Immunization, and for advancing the development of healthy public policy. The Director of Health Promotion is also focused on program integration and advancing service delivery models that not only ensure quality and seamless services, but also deliver on OPH strategic priorities including; Fostering Mental Health, Healthy Eating and Active Living, and Advancing Healthy Public Policy.

The **Performance & Corporate Services** service area provides business services, including: Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Administrative and Board of Health support. The Finance section provides a range of services, including financial planning, reporting and service area support. The Human Resources section is committed to supporting employees so they are engaged and able to deliver on the vision, mission of OPH, and continuing initiatives to ensure an agile and robust workforce. The Information Technology section provides a range of technology services to support OPH's programmatic, business and organizational requirements, and advance the digital strategy. Audit, compliance and administrative policies development and Board of Health support round out this group's responsibilities.

The **Community and Partner Engagement** service area focuses on establishing and enhancing meaningful relationships with a variety of sectors and partners, the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (Champlain LHIN), as well as communities and priority populations essential to our work. A key focus of this service area is to build and further develop relationships with Indigenous communities in relation to OPH's Reconciliation Action plan, which includes building culturally safe services. As well, work includes assessing the impact of the changing health sector and identifying opportunities for OPH.