



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** December 22, 2023

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – December 17, 2023

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Health  
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM  
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence  
for our Communities*

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**UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**December 17, 2023**

**Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

**[tinyurl.com/mszmcusc](https://tinyurl.com/mszmcusc)**

- Durham.ca/HCP Website Updated (Dec 4)

**[tinyurl.com/2ye8rrp6](https://tinyurl.com/2ye8rrp6)**

- Drug Reporting Tool (Dec 5)

**[tinyurl.com/42yvv9d4](https://tinyurl.com/42yvv9d4)**

- Tuberculosis Medication Access: New Pickering Location (Dec 6)

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

**[tinyurl.com/23nn3685](https://tinyurl.com/23nn3685)**

- Fresh cut cantaloupe products recalled due to Salmonella (Dec 8)

**Department of Finance Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/2cehfzkv](https://tinyurl.com/2cehfzkv)**

- Deputy Prime Minister announces record major federal transfers of nearly \$100 billion to provinces and territories (Dec 15)

**Employment and Social Development Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/bde3x6k9](https://tinyurl.com/bde3x6k9)**

- Government of Canada launches online questionnaire to gather input for 2024 Annual Report on Sustainability Goals (Dec 8)

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/mr36embb](https://tinyurl.com/mr36embb)**

- Minister Guilbeault announces Canada's draft methane regulations to support cleaner energy and climate change (Dec 4)

**[tinyurl.com/skzae5as](https://tinyurl.com/skzae5as)**

- Canada introduces framework to cap greenhouse gas pollution for oil and gas sector (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/288jj75w](https://tinyurl.com/288jj75w)**

- First Progress Report on the 2023 Emissions Reduction Plan show Canada bending the curve on greenhouse gas emissions (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/yjzxx5cr](https://tinyurl.com/yjzxx5cr)**

- Government of Canada takes action to restore and protect nature with commitment to introduce a nature accountability bill in 2024 (Dec 9)

**[tinyurl.com/2tuww9j4](https://tinyurl.com/2tuww9j4)**

- Canada and United States announce renewed commitment on climate and nature ambition (Dec 11)

**[tinyurl.com/49zat3yj](https://tinyurl.com/49zat3yj)**

- Statement by the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, on appealing the recent Federal Court decision and Canada's commitment to end plastic pollution (Dec 12)

**[tinyurl.com/zb452e33](https://tinyurl.com/zb452e33)**

- Minister Guilbeault reaffirms Canada's commitment to global climate action and continues to push for a strong outcome at COP28 (Dec 12)

**[tinyurl.com/5n6jbuze](https://tinyurl.com/5n6jbuze)**

- Canada contributes to historic outcomes on climate ambitions and clean energy at COP28 (Dec 13)

**Health Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/4kj3czdk](https://tinyurl.com/4kj3czdk)**

- Joint statement from the Minister of Health, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Indigenous Services on COP 23 (Dec 3)

**[tinyurl.com/5n7j2vwn](https://tinyurl.com/5n7j2vwn)**

- Health Workforce Canada established to improve health workforce data and planning (Dec 6)

**[tinyurl.com/bdzys5kh](https://tinyurl.com/bdzys5kh)**

- Government of Canada announces supports to improve well-being of health workers and help internationally educated health professionals enter the workforce more quickly (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/eu759sv3](https://tinyurl.com/eu759sv3)**

- Making dental care more affordable in Canada (Dec 11)

**Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/3m4xssc3](https://tinyurl.com/3m4xssc3)**

- Government of Canada supports science and research organizations that are transforming research and knowledge into to action (Dec 6)

**[tinyurl.com/mru3ej3y](https://tinyurl.com/mru3ej3y)**

- Agreement reached on retaining Medicago's strategic research and development assets in Canada and recovering payment for Medicago (Dec 8)

**Natural Resources Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/dcjcsfax](https://tinyurl.com/dcjcsfax)**

- Government of Canada Report Shows Climate Change Impacts – and Adaptation Actions – Are Evident in Sectors and Ecosystems in Canada (Dec 8)

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/38yne2hu](https://tinyurl.com/38yne2hu)**

- Government of Canada Invests in Updating the Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport and other key concussions resources (Dec 5)

**[tinyurl.com/2y7d8aep](https://tinyurl.com/2y7d8aep)**

- Government of Canada Invests in New Tool for Educators to Prevent Gender-Based Violence (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/t33xu7ss](https://tinyurl.com/t33xu7ss)**

- Public Health Notice: Outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to Malichita and Ruby brand cantaloupes (Dec 8)

**[tinyurl.com/2f3up5a6](https://tinyurl.com/2f3up5a6)**

- Government of Canada announces partnership with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences to assess fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Canada (Dec 13)

**[tinyurl.com/yfu9svfw](https://tinyurl.com/yfu9svfw)**

- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on Respiratory Illness Season (Dec 14)

**[tinyurl.com/p844nves](https://tinyurl.com/p844nves)**

- Joint Statement from the Co-Chairs of the Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses – Latest National Data on Substance-Related Harms (Dec 15)

**[tinyurl.com/36xx4n2z](https://tinyurl.com/36xx4n2z)**

- Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health on the Overdose Crisis (Dec 15)

**Public Safety Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/2w6bnkjj](https://tinyurl.com/2w6bnkjj)**

- Legislation to reduce gun violence receives Royal Assent (Dec 17)

**GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

**Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services**

**[tinyurl.com/34r8u25j](https://tinyurl.com/34r8u25j)**

- Ontario Investing in Programs to Prevent and Address Gender-based Violence (Dec 6)

**Ministry of Energy**

**[tinyurl.com/ypm9sv](https://tinyurl.com/ypm9sv)**

- Ontario Attracts New Opportunities with Trade Mission to France, United Kingdom, and COP28 (Dec 8)

**Ministry of Health**

**[tinyurl.com/3tprtvm](https://tinyurl.com/3tprtvm)**

- Ontario Connecting Indigenous Peoples to Culturally Appropriate Care (Dec 7)

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**

**[tinyurl.com/yc46zu4f](https://tinyurl.com/yc46zu4f)**

- Ontario Taking Action to Enable Storage of CO2 Underground (Dec 13)

### **Premier's Office**

[tinyurl.com/azn54uey](https://tinyurl.com/azn54uey)

- Ontario Consumers Will be Able to Buy Beer, Cider, Wine and Low-Alcohol Ready-to-Drink Beverages at Convenience, Grocery and Big Box Stores (Dec 14)

### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Association of Local Public Health Agencies**

[tinyurl.com/24nk5p3f](https://tinyurl.com/24nk5p3f)

- Expansion of Alcohol Distribution Letter (Dec 14)

#### **Association of Municipalities of Ontario**

[tinyurl.com/mrxrdx8a](https://tinyurl.com/mrxrdx8a)

- Voluntary Mergers Letter (Dec 11)

#### **Children's Healthcare Canada**

[tinyurl.com/muv8y7bv](https://tinyurl.com/muv8y7bv)

- "Right-Sizing" Child and Youth Mental Health Systems Could Save Canada \$28 Billion Annually (Dec 14)

#### **Dalhousie University**

[tinyurl.com/yysfxrsf](https://tinyurl.com/yysfxrsf)

- Canada's Food Price Report 2024 predicts Canadians will finally get relief from "sticker-shock" (Dec 7)

#### **IC/ES**

[tinyurl.com/yc2baetn](https://tinyurl.com/yc2baetn)

- Eating disorder hospitalizations on the rise, affecting 'atypical' groups the most (Dec 4)

#### **Independent Electricity System Operator**

[tinyurl.com/3ny78xwt](https://tinyurl.com/3ny78xwt)

- IESO Proposes New Clean Electricity Support to Help Meet Ontario's Energy Needs and Zero-Emissions Targets (Dec 11)

#### **National Housing Council**

[tinyurl.com/mrpfxyd](https://tinyurl.com/mrpfxyd)

- Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada (Dec 7)

#### **Office of the Auditor General of Ontario**

[tinyurl.com/y4n5r3p5](https://tinyurl.com/y4n5r3p5)

- Ontario Auditor General Office's 2023 Report Released Today (Dec 6)

#### **Office of the Fire Marshal**

[tinyurl.com/5cnm84c5](https://tinyurl.com/5cnm84c5)

- Fire Safety Partners Help Keep Ontario Safe During the Holidays (Dec 12)

### **Ombudsman Ontario**

**[tinyurl.com/dewa34rz](https://tinyurl.com/dewa34rz)**

- French Language Services Commissioner reports robust results for Francophones and 40% increase in cases (Dec 7)

### **Ontario Community Health**

**[tinyurl.com/364d6h4t](https://tinyurl.com/364d6h4t)**

- Urgent Action Needed From Ontario Government to Address Critical Staffing Crisis in Community Health Sector (Dec 12)

### **Ontario Hospital Association**

**[tinyurl.com/ycxwvurd](https://tinyurl.com/ycxwvurd)**

- Hospitalizations for Respiratory Illnesses On the Rise Ahead of the Holidays (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/3p3feyut](https://tinyurl.com/3p3feyut)**

- Half of Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals Are in Ontario (Dec 7)

### **Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario**

**[tinyurl.com/jar3u6h4](https://tinyurl.com/jar3u6h4)**

- RNAO has the strategy for government to adopt in the wake of auditor general report (Dec 7)

### **UNICEF Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/3kh36364](https://tinyurl.com/3kh36364)**

- Canada still in middle of high-income countries on child poverty, new UNICEF report (Dec 6)

### **World Health Organization**

**[tinyurl.com/35xhpb2v](https://tinyurl.com/35xhpb2v)**

- WHO calls on countries to increase taxes on alcohol and sugary sweetened beverages (Dec 5)

**[tinyurl.com/59xc8cp2](https://tinyurl.com/59xc8cp2)**

- WHO releases guidelines on chronic low back pain (Dec 7)

**[tinyurl.com/2s3pmcej](https://tinyurl.com/2s3pmcej)**

- Despite notable progress, road safety remains urgent global issue (Dec 13)

**[tinyurl.com/2u4h6t9x](https://tinyurl.com/2u4h6t9x)**

- Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines (Dec 13)

**[tinyurl.com/4phr84hf](https://tinyurl.com/4phr84hf)**

- Urgent action needed to protect children and prevent the uptake of e-cigarettes (Dec 14)