



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** January 12, 2024

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – January 7, 2024

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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**  
**January 7, 2024**

**Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

**[tinyurl.com/46tbe5rn](https://tinyurl.com/46tbe5rn)**

- Health Department encourages everyone to be safe if using alcohol or cannabis during the holidays (Dec 18)

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**Employment and Social Development Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/45s6xsh6](https://tinyurl.com/45s6xsh6)**

- Government of Canada helps more seniors age at home (Dec 19)

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/5n6jbuz6](https://tinyurl.com/5n6jbuz6)**

- Partners working with municipalities across Canada to contribute to national conservation network, supporting nature and halting biodiversity loss (Dec 18)

**[tinyurl.com/yc44mhkb](https://tinyurl.com/yc44mhkb)**

- New Electric Vehicle Availability Standard will give Canadians better access to more affordable cars and cleaner air (Dec 19)

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

- The Government of Canada is seeking feedback on developing a federal plastics registry to help tackle pollutions (Jan 2)

**Health Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/yeyhj246](https://tinyurl.com/yeyhj246)**

- The Government of Canada announces the creation of the Canadian Drug Agency (Dec 18)

**[tinyurl.com/zhrt35an](https://tinyurl.com/zhrt35an)**

- Statement from the Minister of Health to mark the first Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month (Jan 4)

**Infrastructure Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/bdhssrb5](https://tinyurl.com/bdhssrb5)**

- Helping communities respond to unsheltered homelessness this winter (Dec 22)

**Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

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

- Government of Canada appoints new President of the National Research Council of Canada (Dec 20)

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/bdewy9ut](https://tinyurl.com/bdewy9ut)**

- Community-based projects help expand access to vaccinations and credible information on immunization (Dec 20)

[tinyurl.com/3u46mth8](https://tinyurl.com/3u46mth8)

- Government of Canada invests in projects to help people in Canada address and adapt to the impacts of climate change to their health (Dec 21)

[tinyurl.com/2s49v5mc](https://tinyurl.com/2s49v5mc)

- Message from the Minister of Health – Alzheimer’s Awareness Month (Jan 3)

### **Transport Canada**

[tinyurl.com/3u9ut5w6](https://tinyurl.com/3u9ut5w6)

- Minister of Transport announces proposed changes to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* to enhance safety for transportation of dangerous goods across Canada (Dec 20)

[tinyurl.com/3ymb6e27](https://tinyurl.com/3ymb6e27)

- Minister of Transport announces modernized vessel construction and equipment regulations (Jan 3)

## **GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

### **Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**

[tinyurl.com/yc8yjtz5](https://tinyurl.com/yc8yjtz5)

- 2022-23 Chief Drinking Water Inspector annual report (Dec 14)

[tinyurl.com/t5mj6re5](https://tinyurl.com/t5mj6re5)

- Minister’s Annual Report on Drinking Water (2023) (Dec 14)

### **Ministry of Health**

[tinyurl.com/bdhwd8jc](https://tinyurl.com/bdhwd8jc)

- Ontario Connecting Children and Youth in Durham Region to Care Close to Home (Dec 20)

### **Premier’s Office**

[tinyurl.com/2tx3hpwp](https://tinyurl.com/2tx3hpwp)

- Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2024 (Dec 29)

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**

[tinyurl.com/y68ym3u4](https://tinyurl.com/y68ym3u4)

- Dr. Arian Marellii appointed Scientific Director of CHIR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (Dec 20)

### **Canadian Parks & Recreation Association**

[tinyurl.com/3cuc65en](https://tinyurl.com/3cuc65en)

- How Canada’s investment in sport, physical activity and recreation pays off (Dec 18)

### **Financial Accountability Office of Ontario**

**[tinyurl.com/m94zs2au](https://tinyurl.com/m94zs2au)**

- FAO releases Expenditure Monitor 2023-24: Q2 (Dec 19)

### **Statistics Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/27efvs8p](https://tinyurl.com/27efvs8p)**

- Statistics Canada's Disaggregated Data Action Plan Achievements Report 2022-23 highlights progress in statistical information for diverse population groups (Dec 19)

### **World Health Organization**

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

- COVID-19 vaccinations shift to regular immunization as COVAX draws to a close (Dec 19)

**[tinyurl.com/mr3sx545](https://tinyurl.com/mr3sx545)**

- COVID-19 variant of interest JN.1 (Dec 19)

**[tinyurl.com/j3kdc3js](https://tinyurl.com/j3kdc3js)**

- Global Health Achievements and Challenges: The year in review (Dec 21)