



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: February 23, 2024

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – February 16, 2024

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
February 16, 2024

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/554zmjbm

- Extended Shingrix Eligibility & GSK Packaging Updates (Feb 5)

tinyurl.com/3crm4xcj

- It's not too late to go alcohol-free for Dry February (Feb 16)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Canada Border Services Agency

tinyurl.com/mr34ekn9

- Government of Canada responds to the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on ArriveCAN (Feb 12)

Department of Finance Canada

tinyurl.com/3sr79sne

- Government of Canada announces Canada Carbon Rebate amounts for 2024-25 (Feb 14)

Employment and Social Development Canada

tinyurl.com/mt5kpnuK

- Government of Canada increases loan forgiveness for doctors and nurses working in under-served rural and remote communities (Feb 13)

tinyurl.com/3cxsr82p

- Minister Khara welcomes first Annual Report from Canada's Chief Accessibility Officer (Feb 15)

Environment and Climate Change Canada

tinyurl.com/2n3trhjb

- Creating a healthy, clean, and sustainable environment for all: Canada consulting on the right to a healthy environment in federal legislation and engaging on environmental justice and racism (Feb 8)

tinyurl.com/ymu85fup

- Minister Guilbeault provides update with new design options for the Clean Electricity Regulations (Feb 16)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/h6dahzue

- Government of Canada announces the services covered under the Canadian Dental Care Plan (Feb 8)

tinyurl.com/bddjyv58

- Health Canada announces transition of mental health resources from Wellness Together Canada (Feb 8)

Natural Resources Canada

tinyurl.com/3jx4w6w3

- Government of Canada to Establish Next Phase of Canada Greener Homes Initiative to Help More Canadians Save on Their Energy Bills (Feb 5)

Privy Council Office

tinyurl.com/zau6wrux

- Joint Statement from Mexico, Canada and the United States Reaffirming Our Shared Commitment to Address the Regional Challenge of Synthetic Drugs and Firearms Trafficking (Feb 9)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/h8yv846v

- Message from the Minister of Health, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, and the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada – Sexual Health Week (Feb 12)

tinyurl.com/4ae29ze9

- Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on syphilis (Feb 14)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Energy

tinyurl.com/2b2c54y4

- Ontario Making It Easier to Build Elective Vehicle Charging Stations (Feb 16)

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

tinyurl.com/bdd5tbva

- Ontario Streamlining Complex Approval Processes (Feb 16)

Ministry of Finance

tinyurl.com/ysjx9cd7

- Ontario Stopping Scheduled Beer Tax Increase (Feb 9)

tinyurl.com/2ms5djvp

- Ontario Releases 2023-24 Third Quarter Finances (Feb 12)

Premier's Office

tinyurl.com/3a8uva49

- Cutting Wait Times, Delivering Better Health Care in Ontario (Feb 9)

tinyurl.com/3ux34hcd

- Ontario Protecting People from the High Costs of a Provincial Carbon Tax (Feb 13)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Cancer Society

tinyurl.com/5r67ycpp

- Tobacco plain packaging progress continues worldwide with 42 countries and territories moving forward with regulations (Feb 6)

Canadian Medical Association

tinyurl.com/5x37c5z9

- We need health system solutions now: CMA, CFPC (Feb 7)

Canadian Ophthalmological Society

tinyurl.com/yc5tuf87

- Ophthalmological innovation paving the way for diagnosis & treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (Feb 7)

College of Nurses of Ontario

tinyurl.com/yw5vbx2y

- First-Ever Nursing Workforce Census Launches – Data will help inform meaningful change in health system (Feb 13)

Financial Accountability Office of Ontario

tinyurl.com/mhs54hcn

- FAO releases economic and budget outlook (Feb 13)

Heart and Stroke Foundation

tinyurl.com/3vfhn63t

- National poll finds nearly 1 in 4 people in Canada report measures such as skipping doses, splitting pills, not filling prescriptions due to costs (Feb 14)

IC/ES

tinyurl.com/4jb7uw3b

- Heavy cannabis use increases risk of developing an anxiety disorder, study suggests (Feb 5)

tinyurl.com/b8hcuuhz

- Women with heart attacks are less likely to receive crucial therapies and have higher mortality than men (Feb 8)

Office of the Auditor General of Canada

tinyurl.com/2dffuhu8

- Glaring disregard for basic management and contracting practices surrounds the government's ArriveCAN application (Feb 12)

Office of the Chief Accessibility Officer

tinyurl.com/vnjan2pz

- Statement from Chief Accessibility Officer Stephanie Cadieux on release of first report on accessibility in Canada (Feb 15)

Office of the Federal Housing Advocate

tinyurl.com/29xdfuyw

- Federal Housing Advocate's final report calls for national response to the crisis of encampments (Feb 13)

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario

tinyurl.com/mttfyb3s

- Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario launches Transparency Challenge 2.0 to spotlight government openness (Feb 12)

Ontario Hospital Association

tinyurl.com/4z27344n

- OHA Welcomes Federal-Provincial Investment of \$3.1 Billion in Health Care Funding (Feb 9)

Patented Medicine Prices Review Board Canada

tinyurl.com/2rzk77je

- Federal Minister of Health tables the 2022 Annual Report of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (Feb 16)

Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control

tinyurl.com/mpht7pkd

- While Quebec's Order of Pharmacists and British Columbia intervene to protect kids from easy access to nicotine patches, the federal government has yet to restrict their sale and promotion nationally (Feb 9)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

tinyurl.com/35wdf53v

- Nurses central to the agreement signed by the prime minister and premier (Feb 9)