



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** January 10, 2025

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – January 5, 2025

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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 5, 2025**

**Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

[tinyurl.com/3w2vchd8](https://tinyurl.com/3w2vchd8)

- Food safety for the holidays (Dec 18)

[tinyurl.com/36cayxyh](https://tinyurl.com/36cayxyh)

- National Overdose Response Service (Dec 23)

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**Department of Finance Canada**

[tinyurl.com/yc6abx47](https://tinyurl.com/yc6abx47)

- Government of Canada releases *2024 Fall Economic Statement* (Dec 16)

[tinyurl.com/3emrbdw4](https://tinyurl.com/3emrbdw4)

- Federal government announces transfer of more than \$100 billion to provinces and territories (Dec 23)

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

[tinyurl.com/yptermu4](https://tinyurl.com/yptermu4)

- Powering Canada's Future: Securing jobs, investments, and savings by building more affordable and reliable clean electricity (Dec 17)

[tinyurl.com/35e6bnhw](https://tinyurl.com/35e6bnhw)

- Early 2023 greenhouse gas estimates show Canada's climate plan is working: emissions have dropped to their lowest level in 27 years (excluding pandemic years) (Dec 19)

**Health Canada**

[tinyurl.com/yfvwn5by](https://tinyurl.com/yfvwn5by)

- Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health on the toxic illegal drug and overdose crisis (Dec 13)

**Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**

[tinyurl.com/mr4bne2k](https://tinyurl.com/mr4bne2k)

- Government of Canada appoints André Loranger as new Chief Statistician of Canada (Dec 20)

**Public Health Agency of Canada**

[tinyurl.com/46n8jvs7](https://tinyurl.com/46n8jvs7)

- Statement from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – Government of Canada releases 2024 Suicide Prevention Progress Report (Dec 19)

[tinyurl.com/ye4ch22s](https://tinyurl.com/ye4ch22s)

- Joint Statement from the Co-Chairs of the Special Advisory Committee on Toxic Drug Poisonings – Latest National Data on Substance-Related Harms (Dec 23)

## **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada**

[tinyurl.com/2v7c2jrt](https://tinyurl.com/2v7c2jrt)

- Statement – Steering Committee Meeting of the Canada-United States Joint Action Plan on Opioids (Dec 18)

## **Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat**

[tinyurl.com/f3dy8kk7](https://tinyurl.com/f3dy8kk7)

- Minister Anand tables the 2024 Public Accounts and the 2023-24 Departmental Results Reports (Dec 17)

## **GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

### **Ministry of Health**

[tinyurl.com/4jt6eby3](https://tinyurl.com/4jt6eby3)

- Ontario Connecting Northern and Rural Communities to Critical Care (Dec 17)

[tinyurl.com/2s4449jn](https://tinyurl.com/2s4449jn)

- Ontario Approves Transition of Nine Drug Injection Sites into Treatment Hubs (Jan 2)

### **Ministry of the Solicitor General**

[tinyurl.com/msvebe85](https://tinyurl.com/msvebe85)

- Ontario Protecting Firefighters from Cancer-Causing Chemicals (Dec 19)

### **Premier's Office**

[tinyurl.com/3f2aem6f](https://tinyurl.com/3f2aem6f)

- Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2025 (Dec 31)

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

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

[tinyurl.com/yrrpkv54](https://tinyurl.com/yrrpkv54)

- Ontario's Opioid Strategy Letter (Dec 17)

### **Canadian Institute for Health Information**

[tinyurl.com/pewp9x27](https://tinyurl.com/pewp9x27)

- 1 in 7 visits to the emergency department are for conditions that could potentially have been managed in primary care (Dec 5)

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

- While family physician growth has slowed, pan-Canadian data indicates primary health care workforce is expanding (Dec 17)

### **Council of the Federation Secretariat**

[tinyurl.com/yc4e249n](https://tinyurl.com/yc4e249n)

- Premiers Discuss Important Issues for Canadians (Dec 16)

**IC/ES**

**[tinyurl.com/4kzyc2d](https://tinyurl.com/4kzyc2d)**

- Patients who leave the emergency department without being seen face higher risk of death, hospitalization (Dec 18)

**World Health Organization**

**[tinyurl.com/msh57tjm](https://tinyurl.com/msh57tjm)**

- Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19 vaccines (Dec 30)