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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2025-INFO-82
Date: October 31, 2025

Subject:

2024 Advocacy, Engagement and Partnerships Report

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on Durham Region Health Department's (DRHD's) [2024 Advocacy, Engagement and Partnerships Report](#) (AEP), which has been posted on the [Board of Health Manual](#) site on durham.ca.

2. Background

2.1 DRHD's AEP is prepared annually to highlight the groups that it collaborates with to help deliver quality public health and paramedic services to local residents. The AEP also serves to document how DRHD meets requirements regarding engagement and collaboration as required in the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#) (OPHS).

2.2 The AEP is a key component of DRHD's 'Accountability Framework' that also includes: Health Plans; Health Check-Ups!; Program Reports; Health Information updates; Quality Enhancement Plans; business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

3. 2024 AEP Highlights

3.1 The 2024 AEP highlights DRHD's community engagement efforts, partnerships, priority populations, professional affiliations and advocacy.

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- 3.2 DRHD's Community Engagement Framework, which provides a foundation for the AEP, articulates its five levels of engagement:
- a. Level 1 Inform – one-way communication out.
 - b. Level 2 Gather – one-way communication in.
 - c. Level 3 Discuss & Involve – two-way communication.
 - d. Level 4 Collaborate – shared decision-making with one lead partner.
 - e. Level 5 Shared Leadership – all partners are equally invested in the decision-making.
- 3.3 The Community Engagement Framework helps to guide the assessment and evaluation of community engagement, and it is used to organize the Community Engagement and Partners sections of the AEP.
- 3.4 In 2024, highlights from DRHD's advocacy, engagement and partnership efforts include:
- a. Engaging with more than 100 diverse working groups and committees to address complex public health issues, such as climate change, health protection, emergency management, immunizations, infant, child and youth health, infectious diseases, injury prevention, mental health, nutrition, paramedic services, prenatal health, road safety, smoking and vaping, substance use, and more.
 - b. Partnering with numerous and varied organizations to improve public health services, including community health agencies, local businesses, school boards, other public health units, government agencies, pharmacies, and more.
 - c. Developing and modifying programs and services to better meet the needs of over 15 priority populations.
 - d. Participating in three advocacy initiatives of public health importance.
- 3.5 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Directions and Pathways in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
- a. Healthy People, Caring Communities
 - H1. Implement preventive strategies to support community health, including food security.
 - H2. Collaborate with partners to respond to complex social issues that improve community safety and well-being, including mental health and addictions.

- H3. Integrate and co-ordinate service delivery for positive life outcomes, including investments in poverty prevention, housing solutions, and homelessness supports.
- H4. Support the development of healthy children and youth, including access to affordable and quality child care.
- H5. Provide services for seniors and work with community partners to support aging in place.
- H7. Prepare for and respond to local health emergencies in partnership with the community.

b. Strong Relationships

- S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
- S2. Build and strengthen respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities.
- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.
- S4. Advocate to the federal and provincial government and agencies to advance regional priorities.

3.6 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The AEP demonstrates alignment of DRHD's community engagement efforts and partnerships with the Region's Strategic Directions and Pathways, and compliance with the OPHS.
- 4.2 The AEP highlights the extensive community engagement and partnerships which support DRHD to deliver quality public health and paramedic services.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health