



# Interoffice Memorandum

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**To:** Health & Social Services Committee

**From:** Dr. Robert Kyle

**Subject:** Health Information Update – January 25, 2026

---

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*



**UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**January 25, 2026**

**Health Department Media Releases/Publications**

**[tinyurl.com/ykvxux7s](https://tinyurl.com/ykvxux7s)**

- Health Department celebrates National Non-Smoking Week Jan 18-24 (Jan 19)

**[tinyurl.com/26vjyk72](https://tinyurl.com/26vjyk72)**

- Make better health your resolution this National Non-Smoking Week (Jan 19)

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**Environment and Climate Change Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/y7fur9je](https://tinyurl.com/y7fur9je)**

- Canada forecasts 2026 to be among the hottest years on record (Jan 19)

**Health Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/2bcxt67y](https://tinyurl.com/2bcxt67y)**

- Government of Canada announces renewed support for the 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline (Jan 16)

**[tinyurl.com/4h2m229c](https://tinyurl.com/4h2m229c)**

- Statement from the Minister of Health on National Non-Smoking Week (Jan 21)

**Public Safety Canada**

**[tinyurl.com/3ehct84x](https://tinyurl.com/3ehct84x)**

- Government of Canada opens the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program to all individual firearms owners (Jan 17)

**GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO**

**Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security**

**[tinyurl.com/44ft47mh](https://tinyurl.com/44ft47mh)**

- Ontario Investing More than \$47 Million to Drive Local Research and Innovation (Jan 21)

**Ministry of Health**

**[tinyurl.com/bdvays4e](https://tinyurl.com/bdvays4e)**

- Ontario Marks One Year Milestone in Primary Care Action Plan (Jan 12)

**[tinyurl.com/5cvfjp7p](https://tinyurl.com/5cvfjp7p)**

- Ontario Building and Expanding 16 Teaching Clinics to Connect 300,000 More People to Primary Care (Jan 14)

**[tinyurl.com/37dth9ap](https://tinyurl.com/37dth9ap)**

- Ontario Fast-Tracking Access to Six Breakthrough Cancer Drugs (Jan 22)

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

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

[tinyurl.com/29cjuzh4](https://tinyurl.com/29cjuzh4)

- 2026 Pre-budget Submission (Jan 15)

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

[tinyurl.com/55vdymcm](https://tinyurl.com/55vdymcm)

- New AMO study: More than 85,000 Ontarians were homeless in 2025 (Jan 13)

### **Bell Let's Talk**

[tinyurl.com/4e8d4cfs](https://tinyurl.com/4e8d4cfs)

- Today is Bell Let's Talk Day! Join in and take a moment for mental Health (Jan 21)

### **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer**

[tinyurl.com/36h5t92j](https://tinyurl.com/36h5t92j)

- Canada can eliminate cervical cancer by 2040 through continued focus on HPV screening and vaccination (Jan 22)

### **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

[tinyurl.com/ynjumn98](https://tinyurl.com/ynjumn98)

- Five years after the pandemic poor mental health and harmful alcohol use persist in Ontario (Jan 12)

### **HPV Global Action**

[tinyurl.com/z2vdeeh2](https://tinyurl.com/z2vdeeh2)

- Pop-Up Clinics Increasing Access to Cervical Cancer Screenings this Cervical Cancer Awareness Month (Jan 19)

### **IC/ES**

[tinyurl.com/2dc4exnk](https://tinyurl.com/2dc4exnk)

- High-risk patients see better results at hospitals with emergency general surgery model (Jan 21)

### **Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario**

[tinyurl.com/4ay265w4](https://tinyurl.com/4ay265w4)

- Privacy and Human Rights Commissions release joint principles for responsible AI use (Jan 21)

### **Ontario Hospital Association**

[tinyurl.com/4p6kcj2k](https://tinyurl.com/4p6kcj2k)

- Ontario Hospitals Face Tough Choices as Economic and Financial Pressures Increase (Jan 16)

### **Public Health Ontario**

[tinyurl.com/48w9je5v](https://tinyurl.com/48w9je5v)

- PHO Connections (Jan 20)

### **World Health Organization**

[tinyurl.com/y7bwk3r](https://tinyurl.com/y7bwk3r)

- Cheaper drinks will see a rise in noncommunicable diseases and injuries (Jan 13)

**[tinyurl.com/n3ah5xrt](https://tinyurl.com/n3ah5xrt)**

- WHO renews commitment to a leprosy-free world, spotlighting partnership and progress ahead of World Leprosy Day (Jan 21)