

A regular meeting of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, via teleconference. Live streaming of the proceedings was provided for the public.

**PRESENT:**

**Nipissing District:**

Central Appointee

Karen Cook

Central Appointee

Sara Inch

Central Appointee

Maurice Switzer

Eastern Appointee

Rick Champagne (*Chairperson*)

Western Appointee

Jamie Restoule

**Parry Sound District:**

Northeastern Appointee

Blair Flowers

Southeastern Appointee

Marianne Stickland

Western Appointee

Jamie McGarvey (*Vice-Chairperson*)

**Public Appointees:**

Gary Guenther

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

Dr. Chirico

Associate Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Carol Zimbalatti

Executive Director, Community Services

Louise Gagné

Program Manager, Healthy Living

Chris Bowes

Public Health Dietitian, Healthy Living

Erin Reyce

**REGRETS:**

Central Appointee

Jamie Lowery

Central Appointee

Dave Wolfe

**RECORDER:**

Management Administrative Assistant

Sheri Beaulieu

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Health members joined the meeting via Teams video conference. Live streaming of the meeting was available to the media and public through a link provided on the Health Unit's website.

Rick Champagne called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the February 22, 2023, Board of Health meeting was reviewed, and the following motion was read:

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/02/01 \*Stickland/Cook**

**Be It Resolved**, that the Board of Health Agenda, dated February 22, 2023, be approved.

The recorded vote was as follows:

**RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
Karen Cook	X			Jamie McGarvey	X		
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Gary Guenther	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	R		
Jamie Lowery	R						

*“Carried”*

**3.0 PRESENTATION: NUTRITIOUS FOOD BASKET 2022**

A presentation was provided to Board of Health members by members of the Healthy Living team.

Highlight and key messages from the presentation were as follows:

- A description of what food insecurity is.
- A graph of food insecurity in Canada by household income in three categories: marginally insecure, moderately insecure, and severely insecure.
- 1 in 6 households in Ontario experience food insecurity, and 1 in 5 children live in a food insecure household in Ontario – this is a serious public health concern.
- An overview of the impacts of food insecurity on health and wellbeing.
- How the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is contributing to what is known about food insecurity.
- Facts about the Nutritious Food Basket: annual monitoring of local food costs, 12 grocery stores in the Health Unit district were monitored, and the in 2022, the monthly cost of eating well for a family of four was \$1,125.
- Not all religious and cultural groups are included in the data collection.
- The 2023 data collection will include more cultural representation for a more meaningful report.
- Food insecurity in an income problem – social assistance rates are too low.
- Food insecurity only tells part of the story; many households that struggle to pay for food also struggle to pay for the other costs of living.
- Income solutions are needed to address the issue for long-term solutions.

The presenters noted that the magnitude of the issue and the severe health consequences of it make it a public health issue, therefore, Board of Health members were asked to advocate to the province with the motion included in the briefing note.

Upon addressing questions and discussion, the presenters were thanked for the presentation, and signed out of the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Noted for the minutes, while a visual report with key messaging was chosen for the presentation of the 2022 report, the Healthy Living program agreed to revisit visual aids, such as posters for the community, as a tool for the 2023 report.

#### 4.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

#### 5.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

##### 5.1 Board of Health Minutes – January 25, 2023

The minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on January 25, 2023, were reviewed and the following motion was read:

#### **Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/02/02\*Cook/McGarvey**

***Be It Resolved***, that the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on January 25, 2023, be approved as presented.

The recorded vote was as follows:

#### RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Karen Cook	X			Jamie McGarvey	X		
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Gary Guenther	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	R		
Jamie Lowery	R						

“Carried”

#### 6.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: April 26, 2023

Time: To be determined

Location: To be determined

#### 7.0 BUSINESS ARISING

There was nothing brought forward under Business Arising.

## 8.0 REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the [February 22, 2023](#), meeting was presented to the Board of Health for information purposes.

An additional verbal update from the Medical Officer of Health was also provided. The report included the following:

- In terms of COVID-19, indices have been decreasing, however, there has been a slight increase over the past couple of weeks.
- There are currently 23 in hospital in the district with COVID-19, however, only 8 are due to COVID-19. There have been no new deaths.
- There have been two outbreaks in congregate settings; only one was related to COVID-19.
- The demand for COVID-19 immunization has decreased.
- Information from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Ministry of Health related to a Spring immunization campaign are pending.

Questions related to the Report were addressed.

## 9.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

### 9.1 Finance and Property Committee

A Finance and Property Committee meeting was held prior to the Board of Health meeting.

The following motion was read:

#### **Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/02/03 \*Restoule/Flowers**

*Whereas, The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's Annual Service Plan must be submitted to the Ministry of Health by April 1, 2023,*

*Therefore Be It Resolved, that on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee that the Board of Health approve the submission of the following requests for one-time funding for 2023 to the Ministry of Health by April 1, 2023:*

*One-time Funding:*

1. Public Health Inspector Practicum	\$13,500.00
2. Needle Exchange Program	\$20,000.00
3. COVID-19 General Program	\$185,000.00
4. COVID-19 Vaccine Program	\$1,070,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,288,500.00</b>

The recorded vote was as follows:

**RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
Karen Cook	X			Jamie McGarvey	X		
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Gary Guenther	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	R		
Jamie Lowery	R						

“Carried”

## 10.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Board of Health correspondence listed for the February 22, 2023, meeting is made available for review by Board members in the Board of Health online portal.

## 11.0 NEW BUSINESS

### 11.1 Nutritious Food Basket 2022

A briefing note related to the presentation at the start of the Board of Health meeting was included in the agenda package. The following motion was read:

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/02/04\*Stickland/McGarvey**

*Whereas, the Ontario Public Health Standards require public health units to monitor food affordability, as well as assess and report on the health of local populations, describing the existence and impact of health inequities;*

*Whereas, it is well documented that food insecurity has a detrimental impact on physical and mental health;*

*Whereas, adequate income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts food security;*

*Whereas, 67% of households in Ontario with social assistance as their main source of income experience food insecurity;*

*Whereas, the 2022 Nutritious Food Basket Survey results show that households reliant on social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living, including food;*

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, That the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit continue to support the efforts of staff and community stakeholders to raise awareness about, and work to reduce, health inequities, including food insecurity; and

**Furthermore Be It Resolved**, That the Board of Health call on the Province of Ontario to legislate targets for the reduction of food insecurity as part of the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy; and

**Furthermore Be It Resolved**, That the Board of Health call on the Province of Ontario to increase social assistance rates to reflect the costs of living, and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and

**Furthermore be it resolved**, That the Board of Health urge the province to resume investigating the feasibility of creating a guaranteed living wage (basic income) in the Province of Ontario; and

**Furthermore Be It Resolved**, That the Board of Health provide correspondence of these resolutions to district municipalities, Ontario Boards of Health, Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton (Minister of Children, Community and Social Services), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health) and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), MP Anthony Rota, MP Scott Aitchison, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Considering discussions following the presentation at the start of the meeting, and in review of the briefing note, the original motion was amended to include a resolution urging the province to resume investigating a basic income in the Province of Ontario.

The recorded vote was as follows:

**RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
Karen Cook	X			Jamie McGarvey	X		
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Gary Guenther	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	R		
Jamie Lowery	R						

*“Carried, as amended”*

## 12.0 IN CAMERA

There was no in camera session.

## 13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the Board of Health Chairperson adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 6:23 p.m.

*Original signed by Rick Champagne*

*2023-04-26*

Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

*Original signed by Sheri Beaulieu*

*2023-04-26*

Sheri Beaulieu, Recorder

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)