

A meeting of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting was open to the public and live streaming of the proceedings was provided for the media and public through a link on the Health Unit's website.

PRESENT:

Nipissing District:

Central Appointee

Karen Cook

Central Appointee

Dave Wolfe

Eastern Appointee

Rick Champagne (*Chairperson*)

Western Appointee – Nipissing District

Jamie Restoule

Parry Sound District:

Northeastern Appointee

Blair Flowers

Southeastern Appointee

Marianne Stickland

Western Appointee

Jamie McGarvey

Public Appointees:

Tim Sheppard

REGRETS:

Central Appointee

Sara Inch (*Vice-Chairperson*)

Central Appointee

Jamie Lowery

Central Appointee

Alex Scott

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Acting Manager, Environmental Health

Brent Allen

Executive Director, Community Services

Louise Gagné

Executive Director, Clinical Services/Chief Nursing Officer

Shannon Mantha

Executive Director, Corporate Services/Privacy Officer

Paul Massicotte

Executive Assistant, Directors Offices'

Christine Neily

Manager, Information Technology & Facilities Operations

Rick Taus

Sr. Network Administrator, Information Technology

Jeremy Uttaro

Recorder

Executive Assistant, Office of the Medical Officer of Health

Ashley Lecappelain

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Health members joined the meeting in person from the Nipissing Room at 345 Oak Street West, North Bay, Ontario, and virtually via Teams video conference.

Rick Champagne, Board of Health Chairperson called the Board of Health meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the February 25, 2026, Board of Health meeting was reviewed, and the following motions were read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/01* Sheppard/Cook

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health Agenda, dated February 25, 2026, be approved.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Board of Health Minutes – January 28, 2026

The minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on January 28, 2026, were reviewed and the following motion was read.

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/02 *Cook/McGarvey

Be It Resolved, that the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on January 28, 2026, be approved as presented

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: April 22, 2026

Time: to be determined

Place: Nipissing Room, North Bay Office

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING

There was nothing noted to bring forward under Business Arising.

7.0 REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The Report of the Medical Officer of Health dated February 25, 2026, was presented to the Board of Health for information purposes.

Questions and comments were received and addressed.

8.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Board of Health correspondence listed for the February 25, 2026, meeting is made available for review by Board members in the Board of Health online portal.

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) 2026 Winter Symposium Summary Report

The alPHA 2026 Winter Symposium Summary Report was provided to the Board of Health for information purposes by Dr. Zimbalatti.

10.2 Strengthening Coordination of Provincial and Federal Dental Programs

Shannon Mantha joined the Board of Health meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Shannon Mantha summarized the Strengthening Coordination of Provincial and Federal briefing note.

The following motion was read.

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/03 *Restoule/Stickland

Whereas, oral health is a vital component of overall health, and access to dental care remains a significant barrier for many low-income, marginalized, and vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, the Government of Canada has introduced the Canadian Dental Care Plan to improve access to dental care for eligible uninsured Canadians; and

Whereas, the Province of Ontario administers dental and social assistance programs, including Healthy Smiles Ontario, Ontario Seniors Dental Care Plan, Ontario Works, and the Ontario Disability Support Program, which provide dental benefits to priority populations; and

Whereas, public health units play a critical role in supporting access to oral health services for vulnerable populations; and

Whereas, current coordination requirements designating the Canadian Dental Care Plan as the primary payer have resulted in unintended barriers to timely dental care for individuals who are eligible for provincial programs but are not yet enrolled in the Canadian Dental Care Plan due to administrative or systemic barriers; and

Whereas, the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit has brought forward a resolution calling for improved coordination between federal and provincial dental programs to ensure equitable and timely access to care;

Now therefore be it resolved that, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit endorse and support the resolution presented by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit regarding strengthening the coordination between the Canadian Dental Care Plan and Ontario's dental and social assistance programs; and

Further be it resolved that, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit urge the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to strengthen coordination, clarify guidance, and streamline administrative processes to reduce delays and confusion for clients and providers; and

Further be it resolved that, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit requests that Public Health Ontario or the Ministry of Health facilitate or contribute to, the completion of a dental workforce analysis to inform policy decisions and guide resource allocation of publicly funded dental benefits; and

Further be it resolved that, this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Children, Public Health Ontario, Community and Social Services, the federal Minister of Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), and Ontario Boards of Health for information and consideration.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

Shannon Mantha left the Board of Health meeting at 5:33 p.m.

10.3 PRESENTATION: Environmental Health Summer Beach Program

Brent Allen and Louise Gagné joined the Board of Health meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Questions and comments were received and addressed.

Brent Allen and Louise Gagné left the Board of Health meeting at 6:23 p.m.

10.3.1 Briefing Note – Discontinuation of Beach Sampling (For Information)

The briefing note was provided to the Board of Health for information purposes.

10.4 Formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Support the Board of Health Self-Evaluation Process.

The briefing note was reviewed, and the following motion was read.

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/04 *Flowers/Cook

Whereas, the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards (OPHS-OS) require boards of health to implement a governance self-evaluation process at least every two years; and

Whereas, the Board of Health last completed a self-evaluation in April 2024 and is required to complete the next self-evaluation by April 2026; and

Whereas, establishing an ad hoc committee will provide focused oversight and support for the timely and effective completion of the Board of Health Self-Evaluation process;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That, the Board of Health establish an ad hoc committee to oversee and support the Board of Health Self-Evaluation process, in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards; and

Be It Further Resolved That, the ad hoc committee shall comprise the Board of Health Chairperson, Rick Champagne, one additional Board of Health member, and the Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer, Dr. Zimbalatti, who shall serve as an ex-officio member; and

Be It Further Resolved That, the ad hoc committee report back to the Board of Health at the June 24, 2026, Board of Health meeting with the results of the self-evaluation and any recommended actions, and that the committee be dissolved upon completion of its mandate; and

Be it Further Resolved That, remuneration for the ad hoc committee be paid in accordance with Board of Health Bylaws, Section VI, #79.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

11.0 IN CAMERA

Rick Taus and Jeremy Uttaro joined the Board of Health meeting at 6.29 p.m.

11.1 The security of the Property of the Board.

An in-camera session of the Board of Health meeting was held. The following motion was read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/05 *Sheppard/Champagne

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Health move in camera at 6:29 p.m. to discuss agenda item 11.1 the security of the property of the Board.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

The Board of Health entered an In-Camera meeting and stopped live streaming to the public at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2026/02/06 *Stickland/Wolfe

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Health rise and report at 7:18 p.m.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION:

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	X			Alex Scott	R		
Blair Flowers	X			Tim Sheppard	X		
Sara Inch	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Jamie Lowery	A			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie McGarvey	X						

“Carried”

Rick Taus and Jeremy Uttaro left the Board of Health meeting at 7:18 p.m.

The Board of Health commenced live streaming to the public at 7:18 p.m.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Rick Champagne the Board of Health Chairperson adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Original Signed by Rick Champagne

2026/04/22

Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Original Signed by Ashley Lecappelain

2026/04/22

Ashley Lecappelain, Recorder

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)