

Monica Hawkins

From: Sheri Beaulieu <sheri.beaulieu@healthunit.ca>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019 12:46 PM
To: christine.elliott@ontario.ca
Cc: Tania Caputo; Miller, Christine; Rachel Quesnel; Rachelle Cote; maria.cook@porcupine.on.ca; Carla Pecjak; mhalko@rcdhu.com; regionalclerk@york.ca; rcushman@rcdhu.com; charles.gardner@smdhu.org; Dr. Monika Dutt; Dr. Penny Sutcliffe; Dr. Marlene Spruyt ; Lianne Catton; karim.kurji@york.ca; helen.angus@ontario.ca; elizabeth.walker@ontario.ca; loretta@alphaweb.org; Dr. David Williams; vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; jvanthof-q@ndp.on.ca; norm.miller@pc.ola.org; Dr. Jim Chirico; Armour, Township of; Bonfield, Township of; Burk's Falls, Village of ; Callander, Municipality of; Calvin, Municipality of; Carling, Township of; Chisholm, Township of; Monica Hawkins; Joly, Township of; Kearney, Town of; Machar, Township of; Magnetawan, Municipality of ; Mattawa, Town of; Mattawan, Municipality of; McDougall, Township of; McKellar, Township of; McMurrich-Monteith, Township of (clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com); Nipissing, Township of ; North Bay, City of; Papineau-Cameron, Township of; Parry Sound, Town of; Perry, Township of ; Powassan, Municipality of; Ryerson, Township of; Seguin, Township of; South River, Village of ; Strong, Township of ; Sundridge, Village of; The Archipelago, Township of; West Nipissing, Municipality of; Whitestone, Municipality of
Subject: Letter of Support for SMDHU's Request Regarding Proposed Regional Public Health Boundaries
Attachments: NE PHU Boundaries Ltr of Support for SMDHU Request 2019 05 23.pdf

On behalf of the Nancy Jacko, Chairperson for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health, attached is a letter of support for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's May 15, 2019, letter recommending that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care leave the full territory of SMDHU intact for the proposed amalgamation with York region.

Regards,

Sheri Beaulieu | Management Administrative Assistant | Office of the Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit | 345 Oak Street West | North Bay, Ontario P1B 2T2 | Canada
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May 23, 2019

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Elliott:

Re: Letter of Support for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit – Proposed Boundaries

It is our understanding that the provincial government is willing to consider feedback on the proposed boundary changes for public health units. With this in mind, the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is fully supportive of the May 15, 2019, letter from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Board of Health recommending that the full territory of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit remain intact and join with York Region Public Health to form a new regional public health entity on April 1, 2020.

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, having merged with Parry Sound in 2005, is well aware of the complexities, disruptions in program service delivery, time and effort, cultural change issues, and especially involved costs associated with such an undertaking. It will be difficult enough merging five health units with intact boundaries, let alone splitting up Simcoe Muskoka, and especially in such a short time frame.

Creating a single health unit entity with such a massive area of over 400,000 Km² will make it extremely challenging to respond, in a timely manner, to the local public health needs of the communities we would be required to serve.

For these many reasons, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health strongly urges the government to reconsider the proposed boundary change and keep the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit intact and join as a whole with York Region Public Health.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Jacko
Chairperson, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health

/sb

To: Minister Elliott
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May 23, 2019

Enclosure

Copy to: North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Member Municipalities
Boards of Health for, Algoma, North Bay Parry Sound, Porcupine, Renfrew, Simcoe Muskoka,
Sudbury, Timiskaming, and York
Medical Officers of Health for Algoma, North Bay Parry Sound, Porcupine, Renfrew, Simcoe
Muskoka, Sudbury, Timiskaming, and York
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Elizabeth Walker, Director, Accountability and Liaison Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-
Term Care
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Vic Fedeli, MPP, Nipissing
John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming Cochrane
Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka

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North Bay Parry Sound District
Health Unit

Bureau de santé
qu'est-ce que la santé ?

May 15, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Elliott:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) to recommend that the full territory of SMDHU remain intact and join with York Region to form a new regional public health entity on April 1, 2020. This is in response to information provided verbally to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for SMDHU by staff from the Ministry of Health and Long - Term Care on May 7th, 2019 indicating that public health services in the District of Muskoka will be provided by a regional public health entity that will also serve Sudbury, North Bay, Parry Sound, Algoma, Porcupine, Timiskaming and part of Renfrew; he also was informed that Simcoe County will be served by a public health entity that will also serve York Region. From this communication it is also Dr. Gardner's understanding that the provincial government is willing to consider feedback on these boundary changes. The Board appreciates having the opportunity to recommend that all of the territory served by SMDHU be combined with that of York Region in a new regional public health entity.

The Board and staff have worked very hard since the inception of SMDHU (the result of a merger prompted by the province in 2005) in order to create a cohesive public health agency that is highly successful in fulfilling its mandate. The District of Muskoka benefits from public health services provided in partnership with Simcoe County. The division of our Muskoka and Simcoe operations would disrupt and undermine program delivery.

The geographic area of the proposed *northeastern regional public health entity* is extremely large (over 400,000 kilometers, extending to James Bay). Providing public health services over such a large and low density area will be very challenging, and it will be very difficult for the governance and management of such a regional public health entity to provide attention to local service provision. The provision of public health services in the District of Muskoka would be more challenging within this very large public health entity than they would be if Muskoka were to join Simcoe County in a regional public health entity with York Region. The provision of public health services for the remaining communities in the proposed *northeastern regional public health entity* would also be further challenged with the addition of Muskoka to their territory.

The inclusion of the District of Muskoka with Simcoe County and York Region in a single public health entity would also be consistent with the observation that in general, the community and health care service referral patterns in Muskoka are directed to facilities in Simcoe County (Barrie and Orillia), and to communities further south (including in York Region).

□ Barrie: 15 Sperling Drive Barrie, ON L4M 6K9 705-721-7520 FAX: 705-721-1495	□ Collingwood: 280 Pretty River Pkwy. Collingwood, ON L9Y 4J5 705-445-0804 FAX: 705-445-6498	□ Cookstown: 2-25 King Street S. Cookstown, ON L0L 1L0 705-458-1103 FAX: 705-458-0105	□ Gravenhurst: 2-5 Pineridge Gale Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1Z3 705-684-9090 FAX: 705-684-9887	□ Huntsville: 34 Chaffey St. Huntsville, ON P1H 1K1 705-789-8813 FAX: 705-789-7245	□ Midland: B-865 Hugel Ave. Midland, ON L4R 1X8 705-526-9324 FAX: 705-526-1513	□ Orillia: 120-169 Front St. S. Orillia, ON L3V 4S8 705-325-9565 FAX: 705-325-2091
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Finally, of great concern to the Board is the reality that the division of Muskoka from Simcoe would greatly increase the complexity, cost and duration of time required for the creation of the new public health entities, compared with having Muskoka and Simcoe join together with the public health services in York Region. A merger between SMDHU and York Region would be complex on its own, however the splitting of our operations between Simcoe and Muskoka at the same time as mergers both with York, and with six other health units to the north would be overwhelming in its complexity.

Given the inherent and substantial disadvantages of dividing Simcoe and Muskoka, the Board recommends that SMDHU join in its entirety with York Region in the modernization of public health.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Chair, Board of Health

CG:cm

cc. Mayor and Council of Simcoe and Muskoka
Members of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe and Muskoka
Boards of Health for York Region, Sudbury, North Bay, Parry Sound, Algoma, Porcupine,
Timiskaming, and Renfrew
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Central Local Health Integration Network
North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network