

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

7 International Drive, Pembroke ON Canada K8A 6W5 www.rcdhu.com

Message from Dr. Maureen Carew, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report which highlights key programs and services provided by the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. 2014 proved to be a year of new beginnings. I began in my new role as the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, the health unit participated in a province wide launch of an electronic system to track and monitor immunizations (Panorama), new legislation was introduced relating to tanning bed safety and our organization became engaged in a process of developing a Strategic Plan.

Staff have been working very hard to keep our population safe and to promote healthy behaviours. From conducting environmental health inspections to promoting breastfeeding, this report outlines a host of activities that have been underway to support optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District.

Message from Mr. J. Michael du Manoir Board of Health Chair, 2015

As the Chair of the Renfrew County and District Board of Health, it is my pleasure to share with you the 2014 Annual Report which outlines the valuable contributions of Renfrew County and District Health Unit in promoting and protecting the health of our population.

As outlined in this report, Renfrew County and District Health Unit has demonstrated a high level of performance in 2014 as it achieved or exceeded many of the provincial performance targets.

Additionally, significant advancements were made in the initiation of a Strategic Plan which will set a new course for the organization over the next five years. I trust you will find this report of interest and would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Health, the Renfrew County and District Health Unit staff and our community partners for their ongoing support and commitment to public health.

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Who we are

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is one of 36 health units in Ontario that provides public health programs and services to a population of approximately 105,000 over a 15,000 square km catchment area that includes 19 municipalities in Eastern Ontario.

2014 saw the beginnings of our first Strategic Plan. Consultations were conducted in the fall of 2014 with several stakeholders including the Board of Health, employees and a wide variety of community partners. This process together with an environmental scan will provide the basis for identifying the vision, mission, values and strategic directions for the organization and completion of the final Strategic Plan in 2015.

<http://www.rcdhu.com/Pages/Home/strategic-plan.html>



Renfrew County and District Health Unit Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019

MISSION

Renfrew County and District Health Unit protects and promotes the health and well-being of all residents through leadership, partnership, accountability and service excellence.

VISION

Optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District

Strategic Values

Transparency

We operate ethically and transparently in the service of our communities.

Equity

We recognize and appreciate the diversity in Renfrew County and District and endeavour to address the unique needs of our population.

Excellence

We are committed to providing the best possible services for individuals and communities. We embrace a culture of continuous improvement, evidence-based decision-making and life-long learning.

Collaboration

We work with community partners to achieve shared goals.

Measuring Up: Performance indicators

Outlined below are the 2014 results for the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement performance indicators. These indicators are a requirement for health unit funding and are reported by all 36 health units in Ontario. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit has met or exceeded the established provincial performance indicator targets for 2014 on all but one target as noted.

Performance Indicator	2014 Target	2014 Performance
% of high-risk food premises inspected once every 4 months while in operation	100%	100%
% of moderate-risk food premises inspected once every 6 months while in operation	100%	99.6%
% of Class A pools inspected while in operation	100%	100%
% of personal service settings inspected annually	95%	99%
% of refrigerators storing public vaccines that had an annual cold chain inspection	100%	100%
% of tobacco vendors in compliance with youth access legislation at the time of last inspection	≥90%	96.7%
% of tobacco retailers inspected twice per year for compliance with section 3 of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act	100%	86.7%*
% of confirmed Group A Streptococcal disease cases where initiation of follow-up occurred on the same day as receipt of lab confirmation of a positive case	100%	100%
% of confirmed gonorrhea cases where initiation of follow-up occurred within 2 business days	100%	100%
% of tobacco retailers inspected once per year for compliance with display, handling and promotion sections of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act	100%	100%
Implementation status of NutriSTEP® Preschool Screen	Intermediate	Intermediate
Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) status (implementation of activities that promote, support and protect breastfeeding)	Advanced	Advanced

* The true inspection rate was 98.3%. This variance was due to discrepancies in the provincial Tobacco Reporting System at the time of reporting.

Creating Supportive Environments

Skin Cancer Prevention Act prevents access to tanning services for youth

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has stated that tanning bed use increases the risk of the deadliest form of skin cancer, malignant melanoma. That risk is 75% higher if tanning bed use begins before the age of 35.

On May 1, 2014 the [Skin Cancer Prevention Act \(Tanning Beds\)](#) came into force. Under the Act, youth under 18 years of age are no longer allowed access to tanning services or ultraviolet light treatments for tanning. The Act also includes safety measures such as the use of protective eyewear and the presence of an attendant for all users of tanning services.

Ultra-violet (UV) radiation emitted by tanning beds is a known cause of skin cancer. This legislation is designed to reduce the likelihood of exposure to UV radiation at a young age.

The Act is being enforced by Public Health Inspectors with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit through annual inspections and response to complaints.

Working towards a strong local food system

The Health Unit is leading the [Healthy Communities Partnership's](#) work on increasing access to healthy foods. Two workshops enabled Health Unit staff and partners to learn about the local food system and to identify food system issues that could be addressed locally.

The workshops led to the formation of the [Community Food Assessment Work Group](#), chaired by the Health Unit and supported by the Healthy Communities Partnership and the Community Resource Center (Killaloe).

A Community Food Assessment looks at assets, barriers, community programs and policies that influence access to healthy foods. Based on the results of a Community Food Assessment, priorities and action plans can be made to address food system issues.

In 2014, a network mapping survey was created and deployed to identify potential champions from each food system sector who will work together on a Community Food Assessment.

95 respondents to the network mapping survey named 281 additional people and organizations involved in various food system activities.

Helping Families

Helping children and youth access dental care

240 children and youth in Renfrew County and District received dental services through Healthy Smiles Ontario.

It is said that the mouth is a mirror that reflects the state of health in the rest of the body. This is why Dental Hygienists from the Health Unit visit all elementary schools to check students for dental health needs. [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#) is a dental program funded by the province of Ontario for children and youth age 17 years and under who do not have access to dental coverage. Eligible children receive preventive and early treatment dental services at no cost.

In the 2014/15 school year, 1,532 children in junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten and grade two in Renfrew County and District, had an oral health assessment. Children requiring further dental care are referred to the Healthy Smiles Ontario program or the Children in Need of Treatment program.

Healthy Smiles Ontario was promoted in Renfrew County and District at preschool centers, food banks, Health Unit child health clinics and dental clinics, and through newspapers and radio.

Infant feeding survey reaches new mothers

From October to December, 171 new mothers were invited to take part in the infant feeding survey. 112 mothers (65%) agreed to participate and 87 completed the first survey.

The Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) is an international mother and infant health program that helps organizations implement practices that protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

As part of BFI, the Health Unit supports the infant feeding decisions of all parents while working to create a community where breastfeeding is the preferred choice.

In Renfrew County and District about 85 percent of mothers are breastfeeding when they leave the hospital with their new baby, but only 65 percent are breastfeeding exclusively. The use of any other liquids or foods increases the chances of stopping breastfeeding early and losing out on the benefits of breastfeeding.

In 2014, the Health Unit started an infant feeding survey to monitor infant feeding practices over time. Mothers who agree to participate are contacted by a Public Health Nurse when their baby is two weeks, two months, six months and one year of age to assess breastfeeding initiation and duration rates. This information helps the Health Unit and community partners understand factors influencing infant feeding choices and will assist in the development of programs and services related to infant feeding.

Helping the Community

Amplifying the voices of Renfrew County youth

19 youth and 37 adults attended the skill-building workshop. 145 youth and 77 adults attended the two Amplify youth summits.

The Health Unit co-chairs the Renfrew County Youth Network, a dynamic group established in 2013 with a mission to develop a Renfrew County Youth Strategy to support all young people to become healthy and resilient.

In 2014, the Health Unit led the organization of three events in support of the network's mission. In February, a workshop by Lions Quest Canada was held which was intended to increase knowledge and skills about "developmental assets" or core skills and values that young people need to be successful. As well two youth summits called [Amplify](#) were held in May and October. These county wide forums were intended to connect and motivate young people around making positive changes in their community. At the first Amplify event, youth identified mental health, healthy relationships and bullying as priority areas for action. During the second Amplify event, experts addressed each of these priority areas and provided additional tools and training.

Regional approach to preventing falls in older adults

In Renfrew County and District about 1,700 adults age 65 and over visit a hospital emergency department each year for care of injuries caused by falls. The rate of fall-related visits to emergency departments by Renfrew County and District residents is higher than in Ontario as a whole.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit is working with the Champlain Local Health Integration Network, the Regional Geriatric Program of Eastern Ontario and the other public health units in the Champlain region on the [Champlain Falls Prevention Strategy](#).

In 2014, Health Unit staff combined efforts with the three other health units in the Champlain region to introduce the following evidence-based interventions in communities:

- Promotion of the [Staying Independent Checklist](#)
- Promotion of the [Falls Prevention Algorithm](#) for health care practitioners
- Development and implementation of a falls prevention training module for Personal Support Workers

As well, the Health Unit trained facilitators for [Stand Up!](#), a falls prevention program for seniors which is now offered by community partners in multiple sites across Renfrew County and District. To date, 53 facilitators have been trained.

Protecting Renfrew County and District

Safe Food Program

- 1,426 routine inspections of food premises
- 397 re-inspections to ensure corrective actions were taken
- 51 complaints investigated
- 31 inspections of school nutrition program facilities
- 197 food-related inspections at special events
- 32 food safety courses resulted in 653 people certified as Safe Food Handlers
- 71 long-term care facility inspections
- 63 recreational camp inspections
- 11 farmers' markets inspected

Infection Control

- 23 day nursery facilities inspected
- 28 group homes inspected
- 195 personal services settings inspected
- 8 institutional enteric outbreaks investigated
- 73 individual enteric illnesses reported and investigated

Rabies Control

- 227 animal bites investigated
- 19 people received post-exposure rabies prophylaxis

Other

- 11 arenas tested for carbon monoxide
- 15 ticks submitted to Public Health Lab for testing
- 50 mosquito traps set up for West Nile Virus monitoring

Safe Water Program

- 16 boil water orders/drinking water advisories issued

Safe Water Program (cont'd)

- 4059 private water samples submitted for testing through the Health Unit
- 564 consultations due to private water supply concerns and/or adverse water sample results
- 1,320 recreational beach samples collected from 28 beaches and 4 beaches posted as unsafe for swimming
- 14 indoor Class A pool inspections
- 49 Class B pool inspections
- 28 hot tub/whirlpool inspections
- 8 splash pad inspections

Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS)

- 59 risk assessments/inspections conducted
- 27 directives issued
- 218 SDWS water samples collected

Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections

- 270 confirmed cases of chlamydia, 19 of hepatitis C and 9 of gonorrhea investigated

Harm Reduction

- 58,100 clean needles distributed and an estimated 52,600 used needles collected

Health Hazard Investigations

- 170 health hazard complaint investigations
- 4 drinking water safety complaint investigations
- 4 recreational water complaint investigations
- 3 infection control complaint investigations
- 9 Smoke Free Ontario complaint investigations

Preventing communicable diseases

Public Health agencies are responsible for a variety of activities aimed at reducing the occurrence and spread of communicable diseases that pose a risk to the health of the public. These include offering immunization clinics, supplying health care providers with publicly funded vaccines, monitoring immunization rates and following up with health care providers, patients and their contacts when communicable diseases are reported.

New immunization requirements

Ontario has introduced new immunization requirements under the [Immunization of School Pupils Act](#).

Beginning in the 2014/15 school year, parents of children in Ontario elementary and secondary schools are required to provide proof that their children have been immunized against Meningococcal disease, Pertussis (whooping cough) and Varicella (chicken pox). This is in addition to prior requirements for proof of immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella. The legislated changes were made to protect children from these diseases and reduce the risk of outbreaks in schools. Renfrew County and District Health Unit communicated through the media and schools to inform parents and guardians of these changes.

Immunization Coverage rates for school aged children for the 2012-13 school year were released in 2014. Coverage rates for RCDHU compared with the province and presented in the table below:

Immunization Coverage of children ages 7 and 17: Renfrew County and District 2012-13 School Year				
	2012/2013 7 year Olds		2012/2013 17 year Olds	
	RCDHU (%)	Ontario (%)	RCDHU (%)	Ontario (%)
Diphtheria	91.3	74.6	78.6	84
Tetanus	91.3	74.6	78.6	84
Pertussis	91.2	72.6	75.2	68.9
Polio	91.3	74.2	96.5	94.3
Measles	97.6	88.3	97.2	95.4
Mumps	97.6	87.9	96.6	93.7
Rubella	98.8	95.2	98	97.1

Preventing communicable diseases

Panorama: A new immunization information system

4,064 vaccines given to 2,938 people at Health Unit community and high school immunization clinics

In 2014, Renfrew County and District Health Unit adopted a new electronic information system for managing vaccination records and vaccine inventories. **Panorama**, which was implemented across all health units in Ontario is expected to benefit Ontarians by:

- ✓ enabling health units to quickly access and track immunization records
- ✓ providing information for assessing the cost and effectiveness of provincial immunization programs
- ✓ enabling the re-allocation of vaccines during an outbreak or to respond to a vaccine shortage

2,476 flu shots given from October to December at Health Unit flu immunization clinics

Vaccine safety

The risk of serious reactions from vaccines is very small compared to the risks from the diseases they prevent. Public Health Ontario's [Vaccine Safety Report 2013](#), released in January 2015 provided information about adverse reactions (unwanted or unexpected health effects) that happened after someone was vaccinated. These events may or may not be caused by the vaccine.

The most frequent reported events were pain/redness or swelling at the injection site (34%), followed by rash (23%) and allergic reactions of the skin (19%).

In 2014, 7 adverse reactions/events were reported in Renfrew County and District. All of these reactions resolved and were in keeping with the most common expected events described above.

2014 Board of Health

The Renfrew County and District Board of Health provides governance, oversight and strategic direction to the Health Unit. Members of the Board of Health in 2014 were:

Chair: Mayor Jack Wilson, Township of Laurentian Valley

Vice-Chair: Reeve Tammy-Lea Stewart, Township of Head, Clara and Maria

Mr. J Michael du Manoir, Provincial Appointee

Mayor Jane Dumas, Township of South Algonquin

Warden Peter Emon, County of Renfrew

Mayor Richard Rabishaw, Town of Laurentian Hills

Councillor Les Scott, City of Pembroke

Ms. Marcia Timm, Provincial Appointee

Ms. Carolyn Watt, Provincial Appointee

Contact us...

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

7 International Drive, Pembroke, Ontario, Canada
K8A 6W5

Health Info Line	613-735-8666
Immunization	613-735-8653
Environmental Health - Inspection	613-735-8654
Dental	613-735-8661
Health Promotion and Clinical Services	613-735-8651
Reception	613-732-3629
Facsimile	613-735-3067

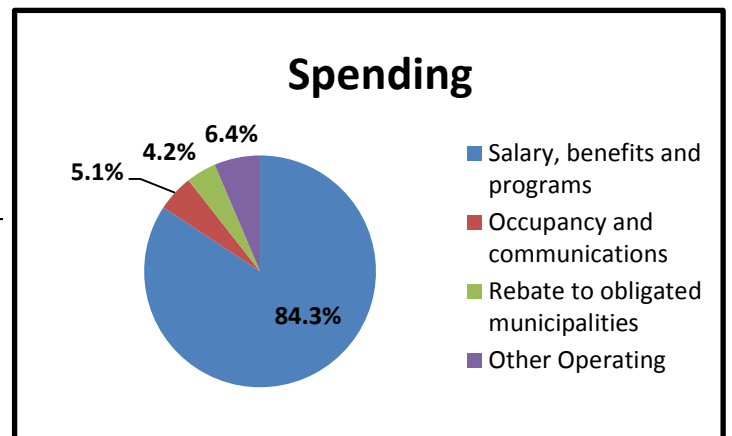
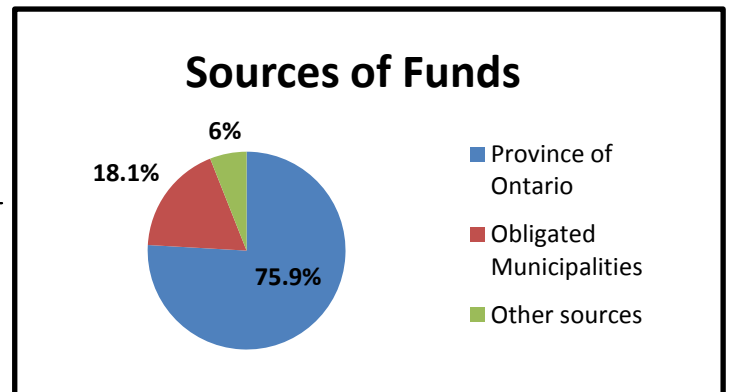
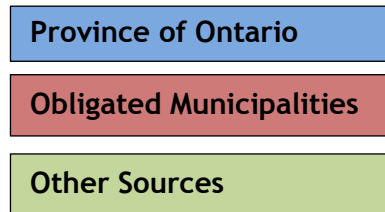
Web site www.rcdhu.com

Branch Office

450 O'Brien Road, Suite 106, Renfrew 613-432-5853

2014 Approved budget

Total budget: \$8,019,213



613-735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 666

www.rcdhu.com



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