



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from our MOH, CEO and Board Chair

We have closed the chapter on 2017. Although, much of the work started here will continue beyond December 31st, we must acknowledge that this was a year of important changes and achievements for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit. The Board of Health and Senior Management Team took the "Water Does Wonders" pledge, committed to making Health Equity an organizational priority and responded to some of the most significant flooding events recorded in Renfrew County history - important interventions we are confident our residents and stakeholders will benefit from.

In November, Renfrew County and District Health Unit management, with support from the members of the board of health, set the health unit down a path of corporate reorganization. Using an active staff engagement process we hope to achieve an organization that is better equipped to handle the changing public health landscape. The implementation of these organizational changes will help to simplify day-to-day operations, align our management structure with other health units and help us strengthen our position as a leading partner in public health.

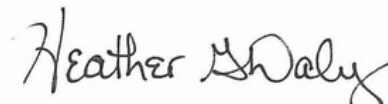
True to the mission of our organization - to protect and promote health and well-being through leadership, partnerships, accountability and service excellence - Renfrew County and District Health Unit staff delivered exceptional public health programs and services and for this we are most grateful. We hope you enjoy this report.

Thank you to our funding partners, stakeholders, and community for your support in 2017.

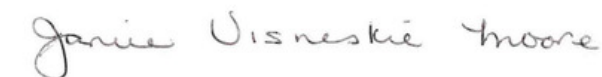
Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Robert Cushman, MD FRCP (C), MOH (A)

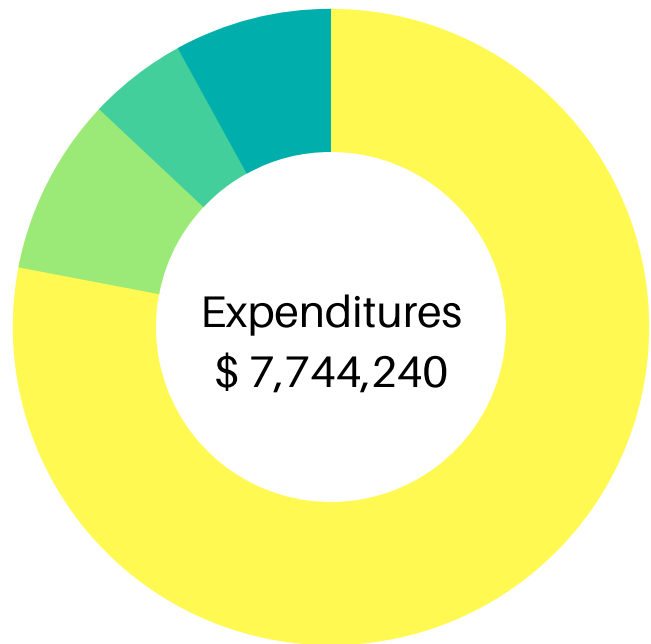


Heather G Daly, CEO (A)/Director, Corporate Services



Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair Board of Health

2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

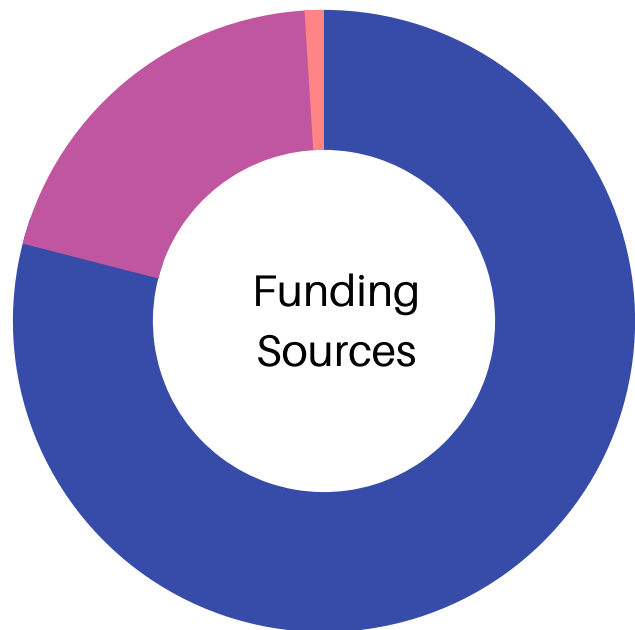


Wages and Benefits - 78%

Program Costs - 9%

Occupancy - 5%

Administration - 8%



Province of Ontario - 79%

Municipalities - 20%

User Fees - 1%

2017

Health Protection

Harm Reduction Enhancement

Across Ontario, overdoses related to opioids are increasing, and Renfrew County and District is not immune. Locally, there was an increase in the number of opioid related overdoses, from 31 in 2016 to 50 in 2017.

In response, RCDHU conducted key informant interviews with stakeholders to identify some of the issues our community is faced with. Out of those consultations, challenges identified included a lack of services, difficulties identifying clients that are opioid users, a large geography to service, a lack of transportation for clients, and the drug using population feeling stigmatized.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit is working with a broad base of partners to build sustainable community outreach and response activities to address drug and opioid-related challenges. The Harm Reduction Enhancement Program aims to: develop a local opioid response plan, conduct training for naloxone use and distribution, as well as develop a comprehensive surveillance and opioid overdose early warning system for RCD.



53

Naloxone kits were distributed to clients, their friends or family members



2017 opioid related deaths: **4.7** per
100,000 population



Health Protection

The Spring Flood

2017 was a year of record flooding in Renfrew County and District (RCD). Approximately 825 private homes and cottages were affected and 30 residents evacuated due to rising water levels in our lakes, rivers and reservoirs.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit environmental health staff was immediately engaged in flood management and mitigation of health hazards caused by the excess water. Topics such as mould, well water and septic system concerns, property damage, and vector borne disease fears were fielded by public health inspectors. The health unit added a temporary private drinking water pickup/drop-off location to meet the demand for private water testing in the Killaloe area. Temporary water sample points on Golden Lake were established in 2017 to monitor levels of E. coli bacteria.

Public health inspectors also acted on a higher demand for inspections of homes and businesses to detect mould and to assist in determining appropriate corrective steps to assist with the cleanup of affected areas.

Many routine small drinking water system inspections were delayed in order to respond to the flood impacts. This helped ease demand on affected operators while they were actively cleaning up their properties in response to the situation.

The health unit was constantly engaged with key stakeholders during the flooding through coordinated Emergency managers meetings. Lessons learned from this flooding event will help RCDHU be better prepared for any future flooding event.

2017

Health Protection

West Nile Virus

Renfrew County and District Health Unit started trapping and testing mosquitoes for West Nile Virus (WNV) in 2002. For the first time ever in RCD some mosquitoes tested positive for WNV. These mosquitoes were trapped in Laurentian Valley and Pembroke. As a result, the health unit issued a warning to residents advising of the presence of West Nile Virus and how to minimize your risk of becoming infected.

West Nile Virus not only causes problems for those who are infected but provides public health professionals with a means of tracking environmental changes which have an impact on population health.

There were a total of 50 mosquito pools tested for West Nile Virus in 2017.

2017 West Nile Virus cases: **0.94** per 100,000 population



- Cooler holds dry ice that melts and produces carbon dioxide
- Light and fan draw mosquitoes into the holding net
- Holding net



Renfrew County and District Health Unit uses carbon dioxide-baited light traps to attract and collect adult mosquitoes at monitoring sites.



Health Promotion

Water Does Wonders

Studies confirm, children are drinking too many sugary drinks which harms their health. Everyone can help by making tap water easier to access and by not serving or selling sugary drinks to children - in the home, in schools and in communities.

The health unit, in partnership with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge and local elementary schools, mobilized a Sip Smart!™ Ontario campaign in 2016 and this initiative continued into 2017. As part of this campaign teachers received lesson plans for grades 3 to 7, posters, parent factsheets and newsletter inserts to teach children and their families about making healthy drink choices. Five schools shared their campaign stories and received water dispensers to use at school events.

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit Public Health Dietitian provided leadership and support in the development of the Water Does Wonders Pledge, www.waterdoeswonders.ca, which complements Sip Smart!™ Ontario. The site guides families, workplaces, municipal organizations, recreation centres, and day cares to "Take the Pledge" and sip more water and reduce sugary drinks.

The Board of Health endorsed the Sip Smart!™ Ontario campaign and took the Water Does Wonders Pledge at the gold level - to promote water and not sell, provide or promote sugary drinks.

We continue to promote Sip Smart!™ Ontario and the Water Does Wonders Pledge and encourage others to Take the Pledge at www.waterdoeswonders.ca



Health Promotion

Fentanyl and Opioid Overdose Awareness

Illicit fentanyl is a highly potent opioid known to be deadly in a small amount. Renfrew County and District Health Unit, along with, County of Renfrew Paramedic Services, Ontario Provincial Police, Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre, Addiction Treatment Services, and the Renfrew County Youth Network have worked collaboratively to address this issue head on.

In March, the “Don’t Lose a Friend” Algonquin College Forums were held in collaboration with Algonquin College Waterfront Campus, where students shared that “the topic was relevant and a concern in the community”.

In April and June, six open community sessions on fentanyl and overdose were held throughout Renfrew County and District as part of an overdose prevention plan. These “Town Hall” style sessions were open to everyone and included a panel of health professionals and community partners who presented on the topics of opioids and illicit fentanyl, the naloxone program and kits, the emergency services perspective and how to talk to your kids about drugs. Each session was followed by a speaker with a lived experience.

The health unit continues to work with partners to address the issue of fentanyl overdose and opioid use in Renfrew County and District.



Health Promotion

Renfrew County Youth Network

The health unit provides leadership and brings youth engagement expertise to the Renfrew County Youth Network (RCYN), a dynamic collaborative of 52 youth serving agencies, youth and community members that support young people 12-25 years to be healthy and resilient throughout Renfrew County and District.

The RCYN planned, implemented and hosted the annual Amplify! Youth Summit held this year at Wilderness Tours for high school aged youth. Dr. Matt Bellace was the keynote speaker promoting the theme "How to Find Your Natural High" which encouraged youth to change attitudes about alcohol and drugs. The summit empowered youth to "get high" in safe, positive and natural ways. Attendance was once again very strong; 140 youth and 30 adult allies participating in this event. The main goal of the summit was to support mobilization of ten Amplify! Youth Leadership Projects in local schools and the community to enhance youth well-being and resiliency.

RCYN youth members and an adult ally raised awareness about the importance of a local youth strategy and Amplify! by providing a delegation to County Council and a presentation to the Board of Health.





About Us

2017 Board of Health

The Renfrew County and District Health Unit Board of Health provides governance, oversight and strategic direction to the health unit. Members of the board of health in 2017 were:

Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair	Twp. Killlaloë-Hagarty-Richards
Carolyn Watt, Vice-Chair	Provincial Appointee
M. Ann Aikens	Provincial Appointee
Michael Donohue	Twp. Admaston/Bromley
J. Michael du Manoir	Provincial Appointee
Jane Dumas	Twp. South Algonquin
Peter Emon	Town of Renfrew
Daniel Janke	Provincial Appointee
Wilmer Matthews	Provincial Appointee
Christine Reavie	City of Pembroke
John (Jed) Reinwald	Town of Laurentian Hills

Contact

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Branch Office - Renfrew	613-432-5853
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Performance Indicators

Performance indicators are a requirement for health unit funding through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement. Performance indicators are reported by all 36 health units in Ontario. Here are the 2017 results, as submitted to MOHLTC, for Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Performance Indicator	Target	Performance
% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for Hepatitis B	Monitoring*	67.4%
% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Monitoring	57.3%
% of school-aged children who have completed immunizations for meningococcus	Monitoring	80.2%
% of 7 or 8 year old students in compliance with the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)	Monitoring	98.6%
% of 16 or 17 year old students in compliance with the ISPA	Monitoring	98.3%
% of high-risk food premises inspected once every 4 months while in operation	Monitoring	100%
% of class A pools inspected while in operation	Monitoring	100%
% of personal service settings inspected annually	Monitoring	100%

*"Monitoring" indicates that performance is reviewed internally by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

** The time period for reporting was July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

2017