



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

CEO Report: May 2024 highlights

To: Board of Health

Date: May 28, 2024

From: Heather G Daly

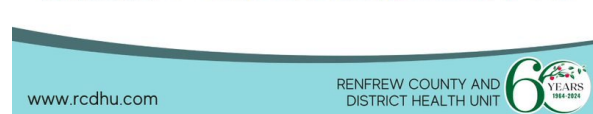
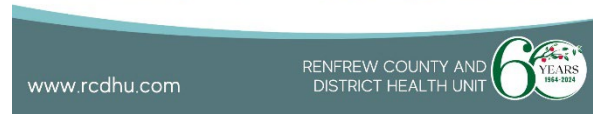
Workplace Health & Wellness

May is alPHA's Workplace Health and Wellness month and activities with the staff have been organized around weekly themes of movement, food, mindfulness and connection. Activities included fresh-air walks and meditation sessions. Photo highlights are being shared on social media pages including Facebook and X. RCDHU's participation was recently acknowledged by alPHA in a recent newsletter to health units:

"Thank you again to Renfrew County and District Health Unit for sharing their Workplace Health and Wellness Month photos on X! We can't wait to see what else you do."



WEEK 1: MOVEMENT



This staff engagement puts into action RCDHU's third strategic direction of Workplace Wellness. Specifically, fostering a healthy and effective organization by cultivating a work environment that supports the well-being of all employees.

Strategic Partnerships

In April Dr. Morgenstern and I participated in a key informant interview with Ottawa West Four Rivers OHT to support their Strategic Plan development phase as they lay out their priorities for the OHT over the next 3 years. A good discussion was held offering insights and advice from our local community and public health perspectives. This work directly supports RCDHU's second strategic direction of Partnerships by enhancing community partnerships at the local level.

Funding

The Ministry issued an approval [letter](#) and [Amending Agreement](#) for additional one-time funding to RCDHU. This funding applies to both 2023 (\$795,200) and 2024 (\$269,100).

For 2023, this included:

- COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs-General and Vaccine Programs \$664,900. (Note the accuracy of the original budget at \$679,453)
- MOH Compensation Initiative \$23,300. This amount is in addition to the base grant funding amount of \$21,200.
- Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program \$107,000 one-time funding.

For the first quarter of 2024, January to March 31, we have been approved for one-time funding as follows:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Program Enhancement \$67,300. This was not in the 2024 RCDHU budget and we don't expect any further funding for COVID-19 in 2024.
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Adult Prevention Program \$138,800 (amount as budgeted).
- Strengthening Public Health: Merger Planning \$63,000 (amount as budgeted).

In the letter, the Ministry provided confirmation that the \$908,400 (mitigation) is being restored to the provincial base funding effective January 1, 2024. They confirmed the 1% growth funding for the 2024 calendar year of \$62,900. New Schedules will be coming to confirm the 2024 base funding in the summer.

60th Anniversary

Celebrations will be held at noon on Thursday, August 8, 2024, for RCDHU's 60th Anniversary of serving the community. A sample [invitation](#) is attached which is being mailed to current and past board members and staff, along with local political representatives to join us for cake and refreshments. The media will also be invited. If any board members have names to share for invitations, please contact Melissa Ziebarth with the details. We are also planning to purchase some anniversary key chains to distribute to staff.

Strengthening Public Health Update

Mergers - To date, nine of the thirty-four public health units have announced their intention to merge into four groupings, resulting in twenty-nine health units in Ontario. The Ministry is currently working with these groups and reviewing their business cases.

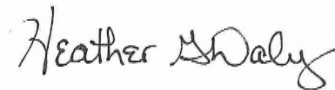
Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Review – The OPHS identifies the minimum expectations for RCDHU's programs and services. As part of the initiative announced last August the government is reviewing the Standards to “refine, refocus and re-level the roles and responsibilities” of local public health units. This review is progressing with the working groups nearing the final stages. It is expected that the sector engagement phase will begin shortly with consultation documents soon to be released followed by webinars and surveys to allow for review and feedback on the revisions. Implementation of the new Standards is set for January 1, 2025.

Public Health Funding – In August 2023, the ministry committed to announcing the new public health funding model in the spring of 2025. This will be in effect on January 1, 2026. It is anticipated they will be engaging with public health and municipal sectors over the coming months to evaluate the proposed methodology and approach. We are waiting for further details on this.

CMOH Annual Report

In April, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Dr. Kieran Moore released his [2023 Annual Report](#) *Balancing Act: An All-of-Society Approach to Addressing Substance Use and Harms*. This is a call to take collective action to address the harms of substance use in Ontario. As said in his conclusion "... the public health sector cannot solve the problem of substance use harms on its own. We need an all-of society approach that engages communities, governments, public health and social services, and individuals – including people with lived and living experience of substance use." This report provides 30 goals to guide actions related to four specific substances: tobacco/vaping products, alcohol, cannabis, and opioids. It includes strategies for interventions at the local level across these four substance areas. Continuing to strengthen and nurture local partnerships are vital so we can take a comprehensive approach to mitigating the harms and impact of substance use.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Shady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heather" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shady".

May 28, 2024