



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District"

CEO Report: September 2023 Update

To: Board of Health

Date: September 26, 2023

From: Heather G. Daly

2024 Funding

The August conference of The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) resulted in funding announcements from the province. All three of our obligated municipalities funding RCDHU secured a delegation with the provincial representatives to discuss public health funding challenges. These municipalities include Township of South Algonquin, City of Pembroke and the County of Renfrew. We appreciate all of the efforts made by the three groups and congratulate them on their contributions to the positive outcomes.

The Minister of Health, the Hon. Sylvia Jones, announced changes to how public health units will be funded, supported, and directed. The news release is linked here: [Ontario Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector | Ontario Newsroom](#). I've summarized some of the highlights and takeaways from the news release that we know so far. There are more details to come.

Restoration of the 75%/25% model: In 2024, the province will restore the annual base funding to public health units to the level previously provided under the 75% provincial and 25% municipal cost share ratio (pre-2020). This applies to all programs within the mandatory base funding group.

Mitigation Funding: The mitigation funding of \$908,400 will end this year (2023 December). It is not clear if this dollar amount is to be directly rolled into the 2024 base funding or if a different amount will be received.

Legacy 100% funded programs: The programs previously funded at 100% (before 2020) will not be restored to 100%. Instead, they are to be cost shared at 75%/25%. The value of these programs in 2020 was approximately \$1.3M from the Ministry.

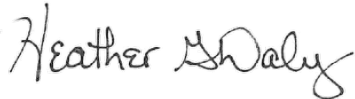
Current 100% funded programs: Programs at 100% funding in 2023 will remain at 100% funding in 2024 (e.g. Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program)

Annual base funding Increases: A promise of some stability funding was given with the announcement of a 1% annual funding increase over the next three years. This begins on April 1, 2023 and is effective through to March 31, 2026. The goal is to provide some funding stability to health units, supporting planning and budgeting. This is a positive step forward and knowing thresholds will be helpful when planning our budgets for the

next 2 years. The province will be working with municipalities on longer-term sustainable funding agreements.

Other summer activities that will be reviewed in today's meeting include the submission of the Ministry of Health 2022 Annual Report and Attestation at the end of August. The RCDHU 2022 Annual Report was compiled over the summer months and will follow this report. We received the 2023 Amending Agreement from the Ministry at the end of August and this is reported in more detail in the Resources Committee report. This is the agreement that confirms funding amounts for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Shady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 26, 2023