



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District"

CEO Report: May 2026

To: Board of Health

Date: May 26, 2026

From: Heather G Daly

HBHC Funding Announcement

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has advised that RCDHU will receive a permanent base funding increase of \$16,676 effective April 1, 2026, for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children (HBHC) program. According to the province this is part of their broader effort to support service sustainability and address cost pressures. This increase is applied to our ongoing base budget (not one-time funding) and is intended to help support the continued delivery of funded services within existing program structures.

Accountability Agreement

The Ministry has released updated schedules to RCDHU's Accountability Agreement, with revised [pages](#) included for reference. While this document relates to the 2025 agreement, it also outlines key funding parameters for 2026. Specifically, it formalizes the 2026 grant details, confirming a 1% increase (\$64,200) to funding for mandatory cost-shared programs, consistent with the Board-approved budget.

At this time, approval has not yet been received for 2026 one-time funding requests, including the PHI Practicum and the Cyber Infrastructure project.

2024 Settlement Letter

In May, we received formal confirmation of the [2024 settlement results](#). The net amount owing to the province is \$15,661, which is consistent with our records and reflects all cash flow activity up to March 31, 2026. This information has been verified internally by the finance team and confirmed by the auditors.

Provincial Funding Review

As part of the provincial funding review, Public Health Unit (PHU) business administrators and CEOs met with the Ministry in April. The Ministry outlined the current fiscal environment, the provincial budgeting process, and expectations for fiscal planning and reporting to ensure strong accountability. They emphasized that Ontario's fiscal environment is constrained and that PHUs will be expected to clearly demonstrate what is supported by funding, the outcomes achieved, and the value for money provided. In practice, this will require stronger alignment between budget pressures, resource requests, service delivery, and population health impacts. PHUs are also expected to continue demonstrating strong fiscal accountability through accurate and detailed budgeting and reporting.

Looking ahead, the Ministry indicated that progress will require action across several areas, including governance and accountability, targeted transformation to improve efficiency, strengthened oversight, enhanced planning and performance evidence, and the development of a more sustainable funding model. Engagement with the sector will continue throughout the year.

Following the meeting, a sector-wide survey was issued to assess indirect costs across PHUs, aimed at understanding how health units plan, allocate, and report these costs. Further review activities, including potential audits, may follow once the data has been analyzed.

In addition, routine Public Health Unit audits were announced this past week. These audits are part of regular Ministry oversight and will focus on Medical Officer of Health positions. RCDHU has not been selected for this review.

Buy Ontario Directive *NEW*:

Local public health units are now explicitly included in a provincial Buy Ontario Procurement Directive issued under the *Buy Ontario Act*. Practically, this means that, starting June 1, 2026 (the directive's effective date for local boards), Boards of Health must prioritize Ontario-and Canadian-made goods and Ontario/Canadian services in covered procurements, and must retain documentation and provide procurement information/data upon request for compliance and oversight.

At a high level, the directive applies to most municipal-sector procurements, meaning Boards of Health must generally prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services across their purchasing activities. However, beyond this general expectation, the directive sets out specific, mandatory processes in two "strategic categories":

- Fleet vehicles (with required Ontario-first purchasing rules), and
- Capital infrastructure projects (with supply chain plans and evaluation requirements).

For all other types of purchases (e.g., routine goods and services), the requirement is less prescriptive. RCDHU is expected to align with the "Buy Ontario" intent, document decisions, and be able to report on procurement activity; however, there are no detailed scoring formulas or mandatory methods, as required for infrastructure projects.

In summary, the directive applies broadly, but only certain categories currently have strict new rules, while the remainder are guided by a general "prioritize Ontario/Canada" expectation.

alPHA Workplace Health and Wellness Month

May marks alPHA's Workplace Health and Wellness Month, encouraging health units to promote activities that support overall health and well-being. RCDHU is featured in the [alPHA May-June Info Break](#). We are very proud of our team that organizes this annual initiative, which has become a valued and well-attended activity by staff. This year's weekly themes are Connection, Mindfulness, Movement, and Food.

Strategic Plan Activities

RCDHU has awarded the Strategic Planning consulting services to Capital Park Consulting Inc., who will lead a collaborative, data-driven process to develop our next Strategic Plan. The project work spans April through September 2026, with final delivery targeted for September 21, 2026. The approach includes an environmental scan, robust internal and external engagement (interviews, focus groups, and surveys), and a full-day facilitated planning session involving the Board of Health and Senior Management

(planned for July) to confirm strategic priorities, goals, actions, intended impacts, and how progress will be tracked. Capital Park will produce a succinct, accessible Strategic Plan (vision, mission, guiding principles, priorities and actions, implementation approach) supported by a comprehensive final report that consolidates the interim findings and engagement results.

Board Deliverables and Milestones Tracker

I am launching a Board Deliverables and Milestones Tracker to provide an “at-a-glance” view of the status of key deliverables for the Board of Health. This initiative was suggested by Board members, and with your input and feedback, the tracker will continue to evolve to better meet your information needs. The tracker is included at the end of this report ([Appendix A](#)).

Respectfully submitted,

Heather G Daly
Chief Executive Officer

Board Deliverables and Milestones Tracker

May 26, 2026

Appendix A

Category	Reporting Item	Cadence	Key Dates	Completion Criteria	Evidence/Notes	Status
Corporate Planning	Corporate Operational Plan with Risk Mitigation	Annual	February/March	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Staff presentation	complete
Risk Reporting	Risk Reports - activity updates (Q4)	Quarterly	February/March	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Q4 2025 presented	complete
Risk Reporting	Risk Reports - activity updates (Q1)	Quarterly	June	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Q1/Q2 2026 presented	
Risk Reporting	Risk Reports - activity updates (Q2)	Quarterly	Sept	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Q3 presented	
Risk Reporting	Risk Reports - activity updates (Q3)	Quarterly	November	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Q4 presented	
Audit	Audit planning + Board response letter	Annual	Spring Feb/March	Response letter approved and sent	CEO report	complete
Audit	Audited Financial Statements (2025)	Annual	May 2026	Board approval + signatures	Board minutes May 2026	
Ministry Reporting	Q4 Ministry report	Annual	Feb 21 (2024 cycle)	Submission confirmed	CEO report	
Ministry Reporting	Q1/Q2 Ministry report	Quarterly	July 31, 2026	Submission confirmed	CEO report	
Ministry Reporting	Q3 Ministry report	Quarterly	Sept 30, 2026	Submission confirmed	CEO report	
Ministry Reporting	Annual Report and Attestation (ARA)	Annual	May/June	Submission confirmed	CEO report	
Ministry Reporting	Annual Reconciliation Report (ARR)	Annual	May/June	Submission confirmed	CEO report	
Ministry Settlement	Year-end payment settlements (prior years)	Annual	Variable	Settlement processed; Letter from Ministry	CEO report	2024 complete
Planning/Budget	Annual Service Plan + Budget submission	Annual	Spring	Board approved + submitted	CEO report	2026 complete
Planning/Budget	ASP Approval./Accountability Agreement	Annual	variable	Agreement w Schedules from Ministry	CEO report	2025 complete
Annual Reporting	Annual Report: RCDHU	Annual	September	Board presentation + publication	CEO report	
					CEO report/certificate in Minutes	
Tax Compliance	Tax Compliance Verification	Annual	April/May	TCV certificate obtained		2026 complete
Strategic Plan	Five Year Strategic Plan	Every 5 years	Current Plan: 2021-2026	Presented to Board and recorded in minutes	Board Minutes 2021	2021 complete