

**Board of Health**

**Minutes**

**January 21, 2026**

**9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

**Microsoft Teams / Mariposa Room**

**15 Sperling Drive, Barrie L4M 6K9**

Chair: A.M. Kungl  
Board Members Present: R. Cipolla, H. Eves, B. Stone  
Board Members Virtual: A. Dubeau, B. Norris, J. Leduc, J. Smith, L. Oehm, N. Nigussie,  
S. Cairns, S. Warnock, S. Read, S. Kinsella, T. Walker

Regrets: B. Gordon

Staff Present: L. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg

**1. Call To Order**

Dr. L. Simon assumed the role of Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am.

**1.1 Welcome Councillor Bob Stone, District of Muskoka**

Dr. L. Simon welcomed Huntsville Councillor Bob Stone replacing Councillor Peter Koetsier as one of the two elected members representing the District of Muskoka on the Board of Health.

Board of Health members shared brief introductions and welcomed Councillor Stone.

**1.2 Chair and Vice Chair Election**

Dr. L. Simon thanked Chair Kungl and Vice Chair Cipolla for their service to the Board in 2025.

Dr. L. Simon called for nominations for 2026 Chair. One nomination was put forward: T. Walker nominated A.M. Kungl. A special resolution was passed to determine A.M. Kungl eligible for re-election as Board Chair for a fourth and final consecutive term as Chair in 2026. The Board held a secret vote (using Microsoft Teams polls and paper ballots) with

unanimous support of the special resolution. A.M. Kungl abstained from the vote.

A.M. Kungl allowed the nomination to stand.

Dr. L. Simon called twice for further Chair nominations for 2026. There were no other nominations and by acclamation it was moved that A.M. Kungl be Chair for 2026.

A.M. Kungl assumed the role of Chair and called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Three nominations were put forward:

- S. Kinsella nominated J. Smith
- A. Dubeau nominated R. Cipolla
- A.M. Kungl nominated S. Cairns

All of the nominated members allowed the nomination to stand.

The Board held a secret vote (using Microsoft Teams polls and paper ballots) and as determined by a majority vote, it was moved that S. Cairns be Vice-Chair for 2026.

### 1.3 Land Acknowledgement

A. Dubeau read the land acknowledgment in full.

### 1.4 Catulpa Community Partnership Award

Recognition of Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Healthy Growth & Development programs. C. Shoreman, Vice President, Community and Family Health with staff.

A.M. Kungl welcomed C. Shoreman, Vice President Community & Family Health; K. Hazlett, Program Manager Healthy Babies Health Children and L. Bray, Public Health Nurse Healthy Growth & Development and recognized staff in both programs in the honour and accomplishment to receive the Catulpa Community Partnership award.

A photo was taken of the Board of Health and staff.

## 2. **Approval of the Agenda**

### **Motion 2.0**

**MOVED BY** Bob Stone

**SECONDED BY** H. Eves

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There was no declaration of conflict of interest.

**4. Consent Agenda**

B. Stone abstained from the vote.

**Motion 4.0**

**MOVED BY R. Cipolla**

**SECONDED BY N. Nigussie**

THAT the Board of Health approve the following consent agenda items:

4.1 Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2025

**CARRIED**

**5. In Camera**

**Motion 5.0**

**MOVED BY L. Oehm**

**SECONDED BY S. Kinsella**

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the November 19, 2025 In Camera Minutes and discuss one Finance item and one HR item.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 5.0.1**

**MOVED BY J. Smith**

**SECONDED BY T. Walker**

That the Board come out of In-Camera.

**CARRIED**

- 5.1 Approval of In-Camera Minutes from November 19, 2025
- 5.2 Finance Item
- 5.3 HR Item

**6. New Business**

6.1 Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg, S. Ross and S. Gill presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg shared the 2026-2029 SMDHU Strategic Plan (PDF version) that includes key revisions since a draft was presented to the Board of Health in November 2025.

S. Gill shared the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan in its formal format (HTML) for public access.

The Board of Health thanked S. Ross and the strategic plan committee for their work to develop the final plan.

S. Gill expanded on the communication plan, which will be initiated once the strategic plan is approved.

The Board held discussion on the objectives within the strategic plan, specifically around Artificial Intelligence.

B. Norris exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m. before the Motion vote.

**Motion 6.1**

**MOVED BY** S. Warnock

**SECONDED BY** S. Read

THAT the Board of Health receives this briefing note as information.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approves the SMDHU Strategic Plan 2026-2029 (Appendix A).

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Board of Health By-Law and Policy Review

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

Dr. L. Simon reviewed the Organizational requirement in accordance with the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability (OPHS, 2021) that the Board of Health (BOH) is to ensure that its by-laws, policies and procedures are reviewed and revised as necessary, and at least every two years. The last review was completed from August 2023 to March 2024.

Substantial revisions are not anticipated to the BOH by-law or policies in 2026. It was recommended that the Medical Officer of Health (Acting) and CEO and the Vice President, Corporate Services and CFO review the by-laws and policies to recommend any required updates to the Board at their June 17, 2026 meeting.

N. Nigussie exited the meeting at 11:15 a.m. after the Motion vote

### **Motion 6.2**

**MOVED BY** R. Cipolla

**SECONDED BY** A. Dubeau

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note as information;

AND FUTUREMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the outlined process and timeline for the Board of Health by-law and policy review.

**CARRIED**

## 7. Items of Education

### 7.1 2026 aPHa Winter Symposium & Workshop (Virtual)

Date: February 11 – 13, 2026

Registration open: email [Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org](mailto:Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org) to attend

Registration deadline February 6, 2026

### 7.2 Save the Date: 2026 aPHa Conference & AGM

Date: June 8 - 10, 2026

Reserve hotel accommodation for June 8 & 9th by emailing  
Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

## **8. Items of Information**

### 8.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- a. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health  
  
to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
  
re: Feedback on Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy
- b. Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board of Health Chair, Huron Perth Public Health  
  
to The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Health Canada and The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health  
  
re: Coordination of Provincial and Federal Dental Programs
- c. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to staff  
  
re: Declaration of Community-Wide Influenza Activity commencing December 22
- d. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to staff  
  
re: Announcement of Acting Vice President, Environmental Health Department
- e. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to staff  
  
re: Declaration of Community-Wide Influenza is Over
- f. Memo from Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health  
  
to Public Health Unit Board of Health Chairs, Medical Officers of Health and Chief Executive Officers  
  
re: Revised Ontario Public Health Standards and Protocols

Dr. L. Simon shared that the release of the updated Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) has been delayed, and it is unknown when they will be released. The OPHS from 2021 are still in effect.

- g. Letter from Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, aPHa Chair to The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Re: 2026 Ontario Budget Consultation: Public Health Programs and Services and Public Health Matters Infographic (January 2026)

## 8.2 Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Resolution Report

- a. 2025-11-20 Prevention and Response to Radon Exposures in WEC
- b. 2025-11-20 Windsor and Essex County School Food Programs
- c. 2025-11-20 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Local Policy Advancement

## 8.3 Middlesex-London Board of Health Report

- a. 2025-12-11 Monitoring Food Affordability and Implications for Public Policy and Action (2025)

## 8.4 aPHa InfoBreak

- a. aPHa InfoBreak Winter 2026

## 9. Announcements

- Call for agenda items
- A.M. Kungl shared that registration is open for The Ontario Public Health Convention (TOPHC). Board members are welcome to register online at <https://www.tophc.ca/>.
- R. Cipolla thanked the Board of Health for their support in the role as Vice Chair in 2025.
- A. Dubeau's term ends in March 8, 2026; last Board meeting will be February 18, 2026.

## 10. Date of Next Meetings

- February 18, 2026
- March 18, 2026

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion 11.0**

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:27 am.

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

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Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

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Dr. Lisa Simon

Medical Officer of Health