

2023 Community Report

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

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Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

Key Points

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health's 2023 Community Report benefits the public and community stakeholders by promoting transparency, community engagement and accountability.

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) has a Transparency Framework with the stated goal that the Board of Health will:

Promote awareness, understanding, and public confidence in Ontario's public health system by ensuring the public knows how Boards of Health are responding to local community needs and that the Board of Health posts on their website both a Strategic Plan and an annual performance and financial report.¹

Background

WDG Public Health has over a decade of annual Community Reports highlighting the yearly accomplishments of individual programs, Agency milestones and innovation in responding to community health. Each year's report contains a financial overview with fully audited financial statements available upon request.

Discussion

The 2023 Community Report is compiled by assessing areas of focus in previous reports, considering issues of concern among the public and highlighting areas that promote confidence in the work of Public Health including:

1. Demonstrating transparency through program accomplishments, and areas of unique focus, such as: The Cannabis Knowledge and Behaviours Survey, protection against food-borne illnesses, understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), local food sustainability, management of infectious diseases, ongoing emergency preparedness and the Agency's commitment to privacy compliance.
2. Highlighting innovation through the data dashboards and health analytics that contribute to evidence-based decisions for WDG Public Health other community partners.
3. Providing an opportunity to raise awareness about the future direction of WDG Public Health through the introduction of the 2024 – 2028 Strategic Plan.

Promotion of the Community Report will occur through social media posts and on the WDGPH website as well as by being sent to key stakeholders including the Minister of Health, all Medical Officers of Health, and Public Health Agencies across the province.

The Community Report is not a list of all activities undertaken each year as all programs report separately to the Ministry of Health or other funders regarding their performance. The Community Report publicly highlights key achievements by the Agency in 2023 that resonate with the broader public.

Health Equity Implications

The Community Report is for all members of the community and all WDG Public Health stakeholders. As such it is written in plain language with graphics and layout that consider AODA standards. The Report will be promoted to everyone and can be made into an accessible format that meets the needs of any individual request for accommodation.

Conclusion

Overall, when members of the public and community stakeholders receive this year's Community Report, they will have a greater sense of the benefits provided by WDG Public Health and the recognition of their involvement in the work of the Agency. Readers of the Community Report will have a better appreciation of how WDG Public Health addresses health challenges unique to the WDG region as well as of the priorities that evolve annually and are addressed via unique and timely initiatives.

Ontario Public Health Standards

Foundational Standards

- Population Health Assessment
- Health Equity
- Effective Public Health Practice
- Emergency Management

Program Standards

- Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being
- Food Safety
- Healthy Environments
- Healthy Growth and Development
- Immunization
- Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control
- Safe Water
- School Health
- Substance Use and Injury Prevention

2024-2028 WDGPH Strategic Goals

More details about these strategic goals can be found in [WDGPH's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#).

- Improve health outcomes
- Focus on children's health
- Build strong partnerships
- Innovate our programs and services
- Lead the way toward a sustainable Public Health system

References

1. Ontario. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability. [Internet] 2021 June. [cited 31 May 2023]. Available from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/protocols_guidelines/Ontario_Public_Health_Standards_2021.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A - 2023 Community Report