

alPHa's members are  
the public health units  
in Ontario.

**alPHa Sections:**

Boards of Health  
Section

Council of Ontario  
Medical Officers of  
Health (COMOH)

**Affiliate**

**Organizations:**

Association of Ontario  
Public Health Business  
Administrators

Association of  
Public Health  
Epidemiologists  
in Ontario

Association of  
Supervisors of Public  
Health Inspectors of  
Ontario

Health Promotion  
Ontario

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of  
Public Health Nursing  
Leaders

Ontario Dietitians in  
Public Health

June 12, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Bldg Rm 281, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

**Re: Boards of Health – Order in Council Appointments**

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On behalf of the Boards of Health Section of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), we are writing to you with regards to the inconsistency with which Order-in-Council appointments to local boards of health under Section 49 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* have been made over the past year.

This came to our attention late last year, with many of our Boards who depend on provincial appointees to maintain their necessary complement reporting that their requests for appointments were not responded to, not approved or approved for only a limited time. In no case was any explanation provided and several of the short-term reappointments have since expired, requiring new requests that have thus far been met with silence.

This inconsistency is having a detrimental effect on the governance and accountability roles of local boards. The uncertainty, interruption of continuity and simple depletion of the ranks are compromising the capacity for sound decision-making on local public health matters in many areas. This is of particular concern at this time as boards of health throughout Ontario have key roles and responsibilities in engaging with their respective public health units, local councils, and community partners in the fight against COVID-19.

We appreciate the challenges of the current moment, but we would respectfully observe that it is precisely because of these challenges that Ontario's Boards of Health require stability and consistency with respect to membership and we need the Province to do its part with timely appointments without arbitrarily truncated terms to the boards who rely on them.

We hope that all current requests for approval will be addressed without further delay and all future requests will be responded to with the urgency that these warrant. Should you wish to discuss this issue further, please have your staff contact Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa at 416-595-0006, x 222 or [loretta@alphaweb.org](mailto:loretta@alphaweb.org).

Sincerely,



Carmen McGregor,  
President



Trudy Sachowski,  
Chair, Boards of Health  
Section



Dr. Paul Roumeliotis  
Chair, Council of Ontario  
Medical Officers of Health

**COPY:** Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health  
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Patrick Byam, Manager, Agency Liaison and Public Appointments Unit

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario. ALPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration and management of health units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, ALPHA's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.