



February 23, 2022

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Office of the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
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Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
393 University Avenue, 21st Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2M2
kieran.moore1@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Christine Elliott and Dr. Moore,

Re: Request for Equalization Funding to Bring WDG Public Health to 70/30 Funding Levels

On behalf of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDG Public Health) I am writing to you regarding the current level of base funding provided to our agency.

WDG Public Health remains deeply grateful for all the aid, including financial, that the Ministry continues to provide us in support of our pandemic response efforts. Without it, we would not have been able to curb the COVID-19 virus throughout our geographic region as effectively as we have. We also would not have been able to fully vaccinate 91.6 % of all adults.

Despite our achievements, WDG Public Health is one of only five public health units in the province that is funded below the 70% - 30% split between the Ministry and our Municipal funding partners. Currently, we sit at 61% Ministry and 39% Municipal for our cost shared budget. Our region (Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph) has experienced significant population growth, (8% between 2016 and 2021) which, along with inflationary costs, puts significant pressure on our existing budget's ability to deliver programs and services. We expect that, as we move into the post-pandemic period, there will be significant public health activities required to deal with the lingering pandemic impacts.

Bringing the base funding for WDG Public Health into alignment with the 70/30 Provincial/Municipal funding split in place with other health units will allow our agency to enhance:

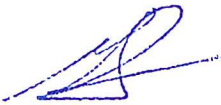
- support for congregate settings (including ongoing IPAC measures);
- the current environment of overdue vaccination requirements in the community;
- future immunization requirements for COVID and non-COVID infectious diseases;

- regulated healthcare and personal service settings education and inspection programs; and
- broad-based community health programs to address post pandemic harms including mental health and substance use.

To that end, I am writing today to request an increase to our base funding in the amount of \$1,920,000. This amount will address the existing funding shortfall and bring us to a 70% - 30% Provincial/Municipal split. Any enhancement to our base budget to meet this target would be appreciated and will enable our agency to continue to deliver important public health programs and services along with addressing post-pandemic service needs through our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and again, for your continued support of the important work of public health. Should you wish to discuss this matter in person, I would be happy to meet at your convenience.

Sincerely,



George Bridge,
Chair, WDGPH Board of Health

- c.c. Hon. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) – via email
sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Ted Arnott, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, MPP (Wellington-Halton Hills) – via email
ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org
Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, MPP (Guelph) – via email
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Randy Pettapiece, MPP (Perth-Wellington) – via email
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Allison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister (MOH) – via email
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Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO (WDGPH) – via email
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