



Ottawa Board of Health

Minutes

Meeting #: 1
Date: February 9, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair Catherine Kitts, Vice-Chair Tammy DeGiovanni, Member Brent Bauer, Member Marty Carr, Member Sabrina Chung, Member Laura Dudas, Member Glen Gower, Member Rawlson King, Member Jessica Bradley, Member Nwanneka Ejiofor, Member Emily Gruenwoldt

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1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
Please see the attached document for public notices and meeting information, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; processes and timelines for

written and oral submissions; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.

2. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m by the Board Secretary. At the time of roll call, all members were present except Member Ejiolor, who joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m., and Member Gower, who joined at 5:19 p.m.

3. Regrets

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Member Rawlson King

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2026.

Carried

6. Communications

One communication item has been received (held on file with the Board of Health Secretary).

7. Motion to Introduce Reports

Moved by Member Rawlson King

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Update on the Revised Ontario Public Health Standards, Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update and 2026 Governance Review Report for the Ottawa Board of Health, be received and considered;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the rules of procedure be suspended to permit the agenda to be amended to introduce the report titled “Election/Confirmation of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026” for consideration at today’s meeting.

Carried

7.1 Confirmation of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026

File ACS2026-OPH-BOH-0003- City-wide

Pursuant to procedure, the Board Secretary chaired the meeting until the Board's adoption of the report titled "Confirmation of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026."

Following its approval on consent, Chair Catherine Kitts assumed the chair.

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:

1. **Confirm the election of Councillor Catherine Kitts as Chair for 2026, to be confirmed at the first meeting of each year of its term as required by the Health Protection and Promotion Act; and**
2. **Confirm the election of Member Tammy DeGiovanni as Vice-Chair for 2026, to be confirmed at the first meeting of each year of its term as required by the Health Protection and Promotion Act.**

Carried

7.2 Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2026-OPH-BOH-0001– City-wide

The Chair provided a verbal update, highlighting the final year of the current Board's term, recent participation in the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference, and discussions with the Province regarding public health funding pressures. The Chair also noted upcoming strategic planning work, Board engagement opportunities, Council's approval of the new Zoning By-law and OPH's role in promoting healthy built environments, and the observance of Black History Month.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately six minutes.

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this verbal report for information.

Received

7.3 Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2026-OPH-MOH-0001 – City-wide

The Medical Officer of Health provided a verbal update, noting seasonal respiratory illness trends and prevention messaging, Ottawa Public Health's commitment to advancing Black health and addressing anti-Black racism, new federal funding to support dementia prevention initiatives in partnership with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, and the upcoming retirement of a senior OPH leader, Cameron Keyes.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately seven minutes.

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this verbal report for information.

Received

7.4 Update on the Revised Ontario Public Health Standards

File ACS2026-OPH-KPQ-0001– City-wide

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information purposes.

Received

7.5 Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update

File ACS2026-OPH-EHI-0001– City-wide

The report was held to allow for one public delegation. The Board received a presentation from Mr. James Scott MacKillop, which is held on file by the Board Secretary.

There was no discussion by the Board.

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update report for information.

Received

7.6 2026 Governance Review Report for the Ottawa Board of Health

File ACS2026-OPH-BOH-0002– City-wide

The Board held the report to allow for Chair Kitts to provide an overview of the 2026 Governance Review, acknowledging the collaborative work undertaken to review Board by-laws and policies in light of legislative updates, City policies, and governance best practices.

The Chair highlighted key proposed updates, including revisions to the Procedure By-law, Delegation of Authority By-law, Code of Conduct, Travel Policy, and Medical Officer of Health Performance Appraisal Policy, as well as the proposed adoption of the City's Election-Related Resources Policy. The Chair also noted the results of the Board's governance self-evaluation survey and upcoming follow-up discussions.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately three minutes.

Moved by Member Rawlson King

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:

1. **Receive for information the Governance Self-Evaluation and Policy Review (2026) report attached as Document 5;**
2. **Approve amendments shown in Document 1 to the Board of Health Procedure By-law;**
3. **Approve amendments shown in Document 2 to the Delegation of Authority By-law;**
4. **Approve amendments shown in Document 3 to the Code of Conduct to align with the City's current framework, clarifying conflict-of-interest processes and expectations for digital conduct and social media;**

5. **Approve amendments shown in Document 4 to the Travel Policy; and**
6. **Amend the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) Performance Appraisal Policy to align with the City's calendar-year cycle, with completion of the appraisal in Q1 for the preceding year.**
7. **Adopt the City of Ottawa's Election-Related Resources policy, as described in this report and attached at Document 6, and confirm that for the purposes of the Board of Health, this policy applies to all Board members, including citizen members.**

Carried

8. Information Previously Distributed

None.

9. In Camera Items*

None.

10. Motion to Adopt Reports

Moved by Member Rawlson King

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Update on the Revised Ontario Public Health Standards, Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update and 2026 Governance Review Report for the Ottawa Board of Health, be received and adopted.

Carried

11. Motions of Which Notice has been Previously Given

None.

None.

12. Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

None.

13. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

None.

14. Confirmation By-law

Moved by Member Rawlson King

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2026-1, a by-law of the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit to confirm the proceedings of the Ottawa Board of Health at its meeting of February 9, 2026, be read and passed.

Carried

15. Inquiries

None.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

17. Next Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2026- 5:00 PM

Original signed by C. Whitar, Board Secretary

Original signed by Councillor C. Kitts, Board Chair