

Chair's Speaking Notes
June 20, 2022 Board of Health Meeting

National Indigenous History Month & National Indigenous Peoples Day

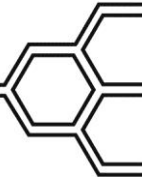
June is National Indigenous History Month and June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day.

National Indigenous History Month provides an opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on past and present-day injustices and policies, such as the Residential School system and the Sixties Scoop, and to learn about and practice reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada defines reconciliation as “an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relations”. It is about healing both individually and collectively between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples by listening and allowing the power of stories and lived experiences to reverberate within us and provide reflection. The website for the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) offers a host of resources, educational opportunities, and opportunities for engagement. I encourage everyone to visit the website and explore what it has to offer.

For its part, National Indigenous Peoples Day is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Also known as Summer Solstice, June 21st is the longest day of the year and, throughout history, it has been a time for Indigenous cultural celebration. This year marks the 26th anniversary of celebrating the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. For over 20 years, National Indigenous Peoples Day and Summer Solstice events in the National Capital Region have created opportunities for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the culture and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Here in Ottawa, the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival is taking place June 21st to the 26th. OPH will be present at the Festival on June 25th and June 26th. The [Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival](#) offers a variety of cultural and educational events, from creative workshops, the sharing of traditional knowledge, education days and a powwow. It's a wonderful opportunity to support local Indigenous organizations and expand your awareness of Indigenous cultures.



I encourage everyone to seek out these and other opportunities to engage and to learn.

Key to the City Ceremony

On June 9th, I was honoured and proud to participate in the Key to the City ceremony recognizing Dr. Etches and the entire OPH team.

It was a touching ceremony followed by a lovely reception. I was especially happy to be able to meet Dr. Etches' parents, spouse and children and to see so many OPH staff in person again – gathered to celebrate the joyous occasion.

It was also nice to see so many Board of Health and Council colleagues, as well as local MPs and MPPs, City partners, health care sector and community partners, and some former OPH staff joining in the celebration. Bruce, the intern, his brother Bryce and their dad – formerly known as Colin Mochrie - even made a special appearance via video message.

I also want to acknowledge and thank Minister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, and Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, for recording and sending video messages of appreciation and congratulations for the work of Dr. Etches and the OPH team.

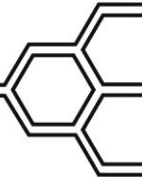
I want to again congratulate Dr. Etches and everyone at OPH on the well-deserved recognition and thank them for their hard work and dedication, particularly over the past two and a half years as they guided our City through the pandemic.

alPHa AGM & Conference

Last week, on June 14th, Member Cloutier and I participated in the virtual alPHa Annual Conference and Board of Health Section meeting. Unfortunately, due to a last-minute scheduling conflict, Member El-Chantiry was not able to participate.

This year, alPHa added a Pre-Conference workshop, held on the afternoon of June 13th, titled "Lead with 'AND': The secret to resilience and results in a polarized world". It featured discussions on:

- The secret to sustainability – Caring for other AND caring for yourself;
- Outsmarting change – Embracing change AND preserving stability; and
- The high-performance paradox – Having expectations AND extending grace.



As for the conference itself, the morning included opening remarks by The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, by Dr. Steini Brown, Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, by Syd Gardiner, Chair of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit Board of Health, by Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Medical Officer of Health for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and alPHa President, and by Trudy Sachowski, alPHa Vice-President. This was followed by an update from Ontario Health, delivered by Matt Anderson, President and CEO of Ontario Health. Then came discussions on:

- Live, Learn, Apply, Repeat: System Learnings from the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
- Harnessing the promise of a learning health system in public health: Challenges and Opportunities.

There was a combined alPHa business meeting and resolutions session, as well as distinguished service awards.

The afternoon saw separate section meetings – one for Members of Boards of Health, the other for the Council of Medical Officers of Health. The Board of Health Section Meeting included a post-provincial election analysis, an update from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and a discussion on Opioids, an epidemic within the pandemic. The meeting concluded with an alPHa update and BOH section business.

As always, the team at alPHa did a great job organizing this event. The speakers were informative and engaging and the topics were timely and relevant.

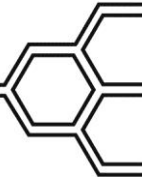
I would now like to invite Member Cloutier to also share his perspective on the conference.

(Member Cloutier speaks)

Thank you Member Cloutier.

Launch of Mobile Health Clinics

Lastly, on another event from last week – In response to the ongoing overdose crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, Recovery Care partnered with Pathways to Recovery, Ottawa Community Housing, Ottawa Inner City Health and Ottawa Public Health to launch Mobile Health Clinics as an innovative, cost-effective way to deliver health care to vulnerable populations and medically under-served areas of Ottawa.



Officially launched on June 15th, the Mobile Health Clinics are a tool to bring health care resources into communities in need. They also represent an important step in providing integrated services to vulnerable residents, meeting them where they live.

Through a multi-disciplinary team and in order to address the complex nature of mental health, substance use health and addiction, the Mobile Health Clinics will provide a spectrum of services, including substance use health services, infectious disease services, harm reduction, primary care support and wound care, peer support services, addictions counselling as well as linkages to care and community supports. They will also build trust by providing a non-stigmatizing environment and employing respect-based care.

In the pilot phase, these Mobile Health Clinics will be offering services three (3) days a week at five (5) Ottawa Community Housing locations.

I was pleased to be able to attend the launch and I'm happy to see this innovative model of care being implemented here in Ottawa.

That concludes my verbal report. I would be happy to take any questions.