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

DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa

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**SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL MANDATE LETTERS AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR OTTAWA
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**OBJET : LETTRES DE MANDAT DE LA PROVINCE ET LEUR SIGNIFICATION
POUR SANTÉ PUBLIQUE OTTAWA**

PURPOSE

Following the 2014 Provincial election, the Premier of Ontario provided direction to each of the Cabinet Ministers through a mandate letter outlining the key priorities for their

respective ministries. The purpose of this memo is to update the Board of Health on the significance of these mandate letters for Ottawa Public Health.

BACKGROUND

For the first time in Ontario's history, in September 2014, Premier Kathleen Wynne publicly released the 30 mandate letters directed to all Cabinet Ministers. The letters identify each ministry's priorities during the government's four year mandate. The transparency of the government's approach in publishing the mandate letters provides the public health sector with valuable context for advancing public health issues and healthy public policy. They provide Ottawa Public Health (OPH) with insights that can support inter-sectoral collaboration, and help identify synergies and opportunities for working with both traditional and non-traditional provincial departments and stakeholders.

The health implications throughout the various ministries' priorities are extensive. Health is impacted by a plethora of influences, which transcend many provincial ministries. Well-being is shaped by many determinants of health, including where we live, our behaviours, and the living conditions and policies that shape our lives. Contrary to the assumption that each person has power over these factors, many are beyond individual control, and are impacted by the policies and programs that ultimately impact health and quality of life.

The Premier's mandate letters help identify issues of strategic importance to the Province that impact health, as well as the ministries and stakeholders whose work aligns with efforts to improve the conditions that promote and protect population health. OPH has reviewed a number of the mandate letters and provided an overview to assist the Board in framing the provincial context in which OPH will be operating over the next few years.

DISCUSSION

The Ministers' mandate letters provide an important lens into government priorities that could impact the health of Ottawa residents. The mandate letters promote an integrated and collaborative approach across ministries to further government priorities. Many of the priorities intersect with issues that affect population health, and as such have relevance to OPH. Appendix 1 provides an overview of 13 of the letters. In particular, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care – (Long-Term Care and Wellness) has been tasked with advancing a culture of health and wellness, and promoting healthier lifestyles through integration and collaboration across government ministries. The

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is directed to develop a health and wellness strategy that includes providing more culturally appropriate care. Promotion of equity and culturally appropriate care is also reflected in the mandates of other ministries, including Children and Youth Services, and Aboriginal Affairs. In addition, the MOHLTC is directed to help develop a policy on community hubs, in consultation with a range of other ministries. These directions support OPH's work in promoting efficient, equitable, and culturally appropriate services that support the health and well-being of Ottawa residents.

Many of the priorities for other ministries help advance public health goals and determinants of health championed by OPH. For instance, the directions outlined in OPH's Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy are reinforced by the priorities identified by a number of ministries. This includes ongoing work regarding menu labeling requirements being lead by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness). The Ontario government has already introduced new legislation, the *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014*, which proposes to help Ontario residents in making healthier food choices through menu labeling. The Premier's mandate letter reinforces the government's commitment to continue making progress towards supportive environments for healthier eating (Memo to Board: *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014*, ACS#2014-OPH-HPDP-0001-IPD, dated November 28, 2014).

In addition, the mandate letters also promote physical activity and active transportation through priorities ranging from improving physical activity rates of children for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness), to the promotion of public transit, active transportation, and road safety for the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. These priorities reinforce OPH work underway to implement the Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness) has also been directed to continue working towards a smoke-free Ontario, which supports the OPH Renewed Strategy for a Smoke-Free Ottawa. The Province's introduction of the *Making Healthier Choices Act, 2014* reflect ongoing government support for protecting Ontario residents from the harmful effects of tobacco use through proposing new bans and regulations regarding the display, sale, and use of e-cigarettes. As well, the legislation proposes to increase fines for those who sell tobacco to youth.

A number of ministries have been provided with direction that supports OPH efforts to promote health across the lifespan. For child health outcomes, this includes supporting at-risk youth and mental health promotion for the Ministries of Community and Social

Services, Children and Youth Services, and Education. Mental health promotion at the provincial level will help bolster OPH's work in advancing the Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Strategy for Children and Youth. The Premier's directions to a number of ministries related to implementing Ontario's Poverty Reduction strategy, as well as reviewing the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy, also have the potential to reduce health disparities and support positive health outcomes; not only for youth, but for people of all ages. Additionally, a range of ministries have been directed to advance the promotion of seniors' health and well-being, including addressing housing needs, promoting age-friendly communities, and supporting seniors to stay active and healthy.

NEXT STEPS

OPH will continue to consider the Premier's priorities across provincial ministries in its work to improve and advocate for the health and well-being of Ottawa residents. The Premier's mandate letters, and their implication on public health issues, will also be taken into consideration as one of many inputs informing the development of the Board of Health's new 2015-2018 strategic planning process.

Thank you,

'Original signed by'

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

APPENDIX 1: 2014 Provincial Mandate Letter Highlights and Public Health Significance

Ministry	Premier of Ontario Mandate Letters Highlights	Public Health Issue Significance
Aboriginal Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Aboriginal Outcomes: Aboriginal Urban Action Plan, includes improving socioeconomic status and educational outcomes Increase dialogue with Federal government to support more sustainable funding for education and improvements in socioeconomic status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing health equity and determinants of health issues for aboriginal population Maintaining public health engagement with aboriginal groups in Ottawa
Children and Youth Services	<p>Transforming the Child Welfare System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements, through partnerships, child benefit supports- healthy transition into adulthood <p>Opportunities for Youth at Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community programming for at-risk youth Increase Aboriginal Youth focus <p>Aboriginal Children and Youth Action Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase strategies that are culturally appropriate and relevant, including mental health and suicide prevention <p>Children and Youth with Complex Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Special Needs Strategy FASD and Autism Spectrum disorder- improve outcomes <p>Reducing Poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health promotion and suicide prevention for youth, including vulnerable and underserved youth Addressing poverty as a determinant of health Promoting overall health and well-being of vulnerable children and youth

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Community and Social Services	Transform Social Assistance and Developmental Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More financial assistance for those with disabilities • Collaborate on strategic issues across ministries, on issues including the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Affordable Housing Strategy, Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, and the development of a policy on community hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health promotion • Homelessness prevention • Public health services and support through community hub models
Environment and Climate Change	Moving Forward on Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new long-term climate change strategy for Ontario • Develop initiatives to engage stakeholders in discussion about risks related to climate change • Ensure climate change is taken into consideration in government decision-making Safeguarding People from Toxins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide better information regarding chemicals linked with cancer and ensure children's products are as safe as in the United States and European Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing health issues associated with climate change • Promoting prudent use of pesticides and the continued ban of the cosmetic use of pesticides for nuisance pests • Support and communicate information about chemicals linked with cancer prevention
Health and Long-Term Care	Putting Patients at the Centre - Right Place, Right Care, Right Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to community care (transition from hospitals) • Dementia (memory clinics), end-of-life care Moving Forward on Accountability and Transparency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efficient and coordinated care through a review of value for money of Local Health Integration Networks, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality client-centric service delivery • Addressing issues that impact seniors' health • Commitment to transparency and accountability • Advancing issues related to the social

Ministry	Premier of Ontario Mandate Letters Highlights	Public Health Issue Significance
	<p>Community Care Access Centres and Public Health Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of new health technology for efficiency and continuity of service <p>Collaborating on Shared Responsibilities across Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other ministers on a range of initiatives including seniors' issues, Aboriginal health and wellness, the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and the policy on community hubs • Expand access to dental care to all low-income children • Work to build a culture of health and community wellness, including supports and programs, to help people stay healthy 	<p>determinants of health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health services and support through community hub models
Health and Long-Term Care: Long-Term Care and Wellness	<p>Moving Ahead on Health and Wellness Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving forward on the Healthy Kids Strategy, menu-labelling, Smoke-Free Ontario, and promoting student physical activity targets <p>Developing a Health and Wellness Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a strategy on community health and a culture of health, including ways to provide more culturally appropriate care <p>Collaborating on Shared Responsibilities across Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in ensuring for the provision of coordinated quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the factors and determinants of health that underpin a culture of wellness • Addressing issues that impact seniors' health • Support of restaurant menu labelling • Healthy Kids Community Challenge: Ottawa is a selected site for interventions • Public health services and support

Ministry	Premier of Ontario Mandate Letters Highlights	Public Health Issue Significance
	<p>care to people when and where they need it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of a community hubs policy • Work with Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs • Work with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs 	<p>through community hub models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting health and well-being for aboriginal populations • Promoting culturally appropriate programs and services
Labour	<p>Reflecting the Changing Workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting employment law reforms <p>Developing a Wage Gap Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing the gap between the incomes of men and women <p>Protecting Vulnerable Workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protect migrant workers <p>Promoting Occupational Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading workplace accident prevention efforts <p>Supporting Mental Health in the Workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with employers to expand employer-provided services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting healthy workplaces • Reducing economic disparities and promoting equity
Municipal Affairs and Housing	<p>Moving Forward on Social and Affordable Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the federal government on implementing the five-year Investment in Affordable Housing program • Improve availability of affordable housing for seniors • Work with MOHLTC to expand supportive housing opportunities for people with mental health and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving affordable housing for vulnerable populations including seniors and people with mental health and addictions issues • Promotion of transit-friendly

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	<p>addictions issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in order to support the Realizing Our Potential, Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy <p>Improving Land Use Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment of Planning Act and Development Charges Act to support development of sustainable, transit-friendly communities <p>Reviewing Disaster Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure programs meet needs in addressing extreme weather events and participate in the review of the province's emergency management system <p>Developing a Community Hubs Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Ministry of Education, MOHLTC to develop government policy on creating community hubs 	<p>communities resulting in stronger active transportation infrastructure, supporting physical activity and healthier communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health role in the emergency management system and recognition of population health impacts of extreme weather events Public health services and support through community hub models
Seniors' Secretariat	<p>Developing Services and Supports for Seniors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Seniors Community Grant Program (1 million per year) Promote role of elderly persons' centres Provide leadership relating to age-friendly communities Provide seniors' perspectives on housing issues to other ministries <p>Supporting Seniors' Health and Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with MOHLTC to develop a strategy on wellness, including supports and programs to help seniors stay active and healthy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued promotion of age-friendly communities, including built form Public health engagement on fall prevention, healthy and active seniors policies and programs

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Tourism, Culture and Sport	<p>Creating a Healthier Ontario through Sport and Active Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote active lifestyles and increased participation in sport, recreation and physical activity Implement a refreshed Ontario Trails Strategy, including introduction of legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of physical activity and active living Role of trails in promoting connectivity and opportunities for activity
Transportation	<p>Building the Next Generation of Transit and Transportation Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building better public transit and a seamless transportation network, through the Moving Ontario Forward, a 10-year transit and transportation strategy Support Ottawa rapid transit project <p>Strengthening Road Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to address areas of concern, such as pedestrian, cycling and truck safety, driver distraction and impaired driving Continuing to implement the province's first-ever cycling strategy, #CycleON. This strategy will provide a \$25-million cycling infrastructure investment, including \$15 million for provincial infrastructure and \$10 million for municipal infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of healthy built environments, including environments that support safe and active forms of transportation Promotion of cycling
Treasury Board	<p>Lead the Poverty Reduction Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to break the cycle of poverty for children Work towards employment and income security Use evidence-based social policy and measuring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforcing work to reduce disparities and inequities as a means for improving population health

Ministry	Premier of Ontario Mandate Letters Highlights	Public Health Issue Significance
	success	
Women's Issues	Work to End Violence Against Women Work to Improve Women's Economic Independence and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting policies and programs that promote equity and services for vulnerable women