



Board of Health and Medical Officer of Health

Board of Health

Under the **Health Protection and Promotion Act** (HPPA), Region of Waterloo Council serves as the Board of Health for Waterloo Region. The HPPA authorizes the board of health and its staff to control communicable disease and other health hazards in the community. It also mandates the health unit to perform proactive functions in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention. All programs and services are approved by the board of health.

The board of health is responsible for ensuring that the health programs and services required by the Act are provided. It may also provide other services that are necessary in the opinion of the board of health based on local needs. The board of health is accountable for ensuring that public health needs are addressed and that the health unit is meeting objectives and priorities established by the board.

The Board of Health:

- Establishes general policies and procedures which govern the operation of the health unit.
- Upholds provincial legislation governing the mandate of the board of health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and other relevant legislation.
- Is accountable to the community for ensuring that its health needs are addressed by the appropriate programs and ensuring that the health unit is well managed.
- Ensures program quality and effectiveness and financial viability.
- Establishes overall objectives and priorities for the organization in its provision of health programs and services to meet the needs of the community.
- Appoints, by by-law, the medical officer of health and associate medical officer of health, with approval of the Minister.



Medical Officer of Health (MOH)

The medical officer of health reports to the board of health on matters related to upholding the Health Protection and Promotion Act. The medical officer of health is responsible for the management of public health programs and services.

Mechanisms used at Region of Waterloo to assist Regional Council in meeting its obligation as the board of health include regular reporting through Community Services Committee of population health data, program impacts and program modifications needed to improve the health of the population. Public Health also reports annually to Community Services Committee with an annual report outlining key activities and statistics of the previous year.

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH):

- Directs staff in the implementation of board policies and procedures.
- Is accountable to the board for day-to-day operations of the health unit.
- Is responsible for the direct supervision and performance appraisal of senior staff and advises or assists department heads in hiring staff.
- Encourages and promotes the continuing education of all staff.
- Directs the overall provision of programs and services.
- Ensures the evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and services.
- Recommends appropriate changes and reports these findings regularly to the board.



The information contained in this fact sheet originates from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' **2018 Orientation Manual for Board of Health Members**

Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.