



April 2, 2024

The Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Minister / Minister of Health  
Government of Ontario  
[sylvia.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:sylvia.jones@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Jones:

**RE: Merger Business Case Submission**

As Chairs of the Boards of Health for Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR) and Peterborough Public Health (PPH), it is our pleasure to write to you today to submit our business case in support of a voluntary merger between our Boards of Health.

We have been encouraged to see the provincial commitment to strengthening the public health system that is led by the sector and funded provincially. We know from the experience of COVID-19 that public health plays a critical role in serving our local communities, and it is our intention as Board of Health Chairs to further strengthen the services provided and the capacity of our organizations to deliver robust and equitable public health services.

Our boards have undertaken comprehensive and thoughtful analysis on the feasibility of a merger between HKPR and PPH, following careful consideration of other neighbouring health unit partners.

To ensure this merger is a success, our boards hope to receive full and comprehensive funding from the provincial merger support fund. Each board's motion to intend to merge has referenced the adequacy of provincial funding as critical to moving forward. This is an essential element to garnering support from our local communities for this merger. We hope that you will give our business case full consideration.

We look forward to the capacity gains that we anticipate through voluntarily merging. We also anticipate that the merger will result in longstanding financial pressures through the harmonization of wages and other annualized expenses. We, therefore, are requesting provincial commitment to 5 years of funding for local levy harmonization to ensure sustainability of the merger without undue financial pressure on local municipalities and First Nations, as stated in the policy announcement, while you are also undertaking the provincial funding review.

Public health services play a critical function in the health, wellbeing, fairness, and prosperity of our communities and we look forward to continued partnership to strengthening public health.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Mr. Marshall*

*Original Signed by Councillor Lachica*

David Marshall  
Chair, Board of Health  
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge  
District Health Unit

Councillor Joy Lachica  
Chair, Board of Health  
Peterborough Public Health

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Local Members of Provincial Parliament  
Local Councils