



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

June 14, 2019

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliot,

At its May 22, 2019 meeting, Hamilton City Council discussed the changes being proposed for public health in Ontario and their potential effects. Before I convey the recommendations that arose from that discussion, I would like to commend you and your colleagues for your announcement on June 3rd that any changes to the provincial funding of public health will not affect the current fiscal year.

Hamilton's City Council recommends that any restructuring or modernization of local Public Health take into account the following principles:

- That its unique mandate to keep people and our communities healthy, prevent disease and reduce health inequities be maintained;
- That its focus on the core functions of public health, including population health assessment and surveillance, promotion of health and wellness, disease prevention, health protection and emergency management and response be continued;
- That sufficient funding and human resources to fulfill its unique mandate are ensured.
- That the focus for public health services be maintained at the community level to best serve residents and lead strategic community partnerships with municipalities, school boards, health care organizations, community agencies and residents;
- That there be local public health senior and medical leadership to provide advice on public health issues to municipal councils and participate in strategic community partnerships. The importance of this has been highlighted by the recent cluster of HIV among those using intravenous drugs in Hamilton;

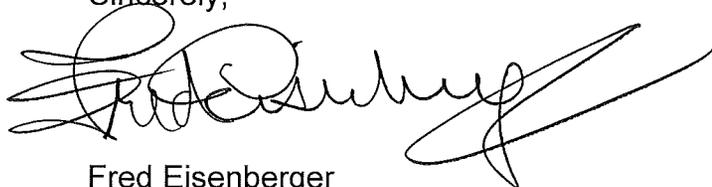
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- That local public health services be responsive and tailored to the health needs and priorities of each local community, including those of vulnerable groups or those with specific needs such as the indigenous community;
- That representation of municipalities on any board of health be proportionate to both their population and to the size of the financial contribution of that municipality to the Regional Public Health Entity;
- That any transition be carried out with attention to good change management, and while ensuring ongoing service delivery.

For decades Hamilton has enjoyed and benefited from the knowledge, skills and implementation of 'preventive maintenance' that our public health staff have provided which we know has resulted in our community avoiding many costly health 'breakdowns' that would have arisen otherwise! As we move forward we also look forward to working directly with you and collaborating with our provincial colleagues through the relevant partnerships, such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA).

In closing, we believe consultation directly with local public health agencies, such as ours, is critical to developing the best local public health system as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Eisenberger', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

CC: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton