

PHU-THU Merger: Community Update

February 29, 2024

Together, the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit strive for an efficient and effective integration of our public health units to strengthen public health in Northeastern Ontario. We are committed to transparent communication, fostering a positive and inclusive culture, and optimizing our resources to deliver resilient and responsive public health programs and services for the best possible health outcomes in the diverse communities we serve.

Porcupine Health Unit-Timiskaming Health Unit (PHU-THU) merger updates are expected to be shared quarterly with municipalities, First Nations communities, and community partners.

Questions or comments can be sent to [Rachelle Côté](#) or [Lori McCord](#).

Where are we now?



- Working on an application for the merger, as required by the Ministry of Health.
- Developing change management plans for staff and partners to help streamline this transition.
- Established an organizational structure for the merger integration team and created work plans to organize key projects and timelines.
- Members of the Board of Health (BOH) merger working group have been selected, with equal representation from both boards.

Communities and Public Health

- Merging the health units will increase efficiency and capacity to strengthen public health programs and services for all communities.
- There are many partnerships shared between PHU and THU. The health units will maintain these key partnerships to work together to continue to meet the needs of our communities.

Next steps

- Continuing to work on the merger application, which will be submitted by April 2nd to the Ministry of Health.
- The ministry has shared an approval process, and it is expected that final government approval will be received later this fall.
- Continuing to engage municipalities, First Nations communities, community partners, and the public to ensure this merger strengthens public health and local connections.

Messaging for your community members

- Programs and services will continue as is in local health unit offices in both regions during the merger process.

Strengthening public health in Northeastern Ontario