

November 7, 2024

Re: Municipal Appointees for new Board of Health – Due December 13, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council,

In anticipation of formal approvals for the voluntary merger between the Porcupine Health Unit and the Timiskaming Health Unit, we encourage Municipalities to start discussions of appointments to the new Board of Health for Northeastern Health Unit /Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire du Nord-Est.

Appointment

Regulation 559 (1990) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act directs how municipal appointments are distributed but provides no direction on how the municipality makes that choice where one member is appointed by a cluster of municipalities. To support municipalities who have a shared seat, we have included a *Guidance document - shared municipal seats on the Board of Health* with considerations that municipalities can apply. We are asking for a copy of the municipal resolution from each municipality, including each municipality in a shared grouping indicating that they support that particular appointment.

To provide quality governance, exercise due diligence on behalf of the Members, and to meet HPPA requirements, municipalities should consider the skill sets, interests, knowledge, and competencies of appointees. In addition, to reflect the uniqueness of our district, individual characteristics of appointees should also be considered. Having a Board with Indigenous, Francophone, rural and urban diversity strengthens the Board's ability to reflect and understand the needs of the communities the public health unit serves. While most members of Boards of Health are elected officials, municipalities can choose to appoint a community member who is recognized by council as having skills and expertise for effective governance as well as an interest in improving the health and wellbeing of communities across our entire new region.

Porcupine Health Unit
169 Pine St. S
Timmins, ON P4N 8B7
1-800-461-1818

Timiskaming Health Unit
247 Whitewood Avenue, Unit 43
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
1-866-747-4305

For the Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit (operating as Northeastern Public Health), the municipal appointments are as follows (effective 2025-01-01):

Municipality	Municipal Appointees (13)
City of Timmins	3
Temiskaming Shores	2
Kapusking	1
Kirkland Lake	1
Cochrane, Smooth Rock Falls	1
Rural North Hearst, Mattice Val Cote, Moonbeam, Val Rita Harty, Opatatika, Fauquier-Strickland, Hornepayne	1
Rural Central - North Iroquois Falls, Black River Matheson	1
Rural Central - South Larder Lake, McGarry, Gauthier, Matachewan, Charlton & Dack, Englehart, Chamberlain, Ewanturel, James	1
Rural South Armstrong, Brethour, Casey, Cobalt, Coleman, Harley, Harris, Hilliard, Hudson, Kerns, Latchford, Temagami, Thornloe	1
Rural Far North Moosonee (James Bay and Hudson Bay region)	1

Based on best practice recommendations and legal advice, ideally the NEPH Board of Health will primarily be made up of experienced, currently active Board of Health members from the Porcupine Health Unit and Temiskaming Health Unit Boards of Health. This is imperative to facilitate continuity and will ensure an effective, strong, and active Board of Health.

First Meeting

Due to legislative requirements, the very first meeting for the Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit will occur on **January 1, 2025**. While this date is not ideal, appointees will receive the meeting package well in advance and the agenda will be limited to those items that are legally required to support an efficient first meeting.

Term

As per the Health Protection and Promotion Act, the term of office of a municipal appointee of a board of health continues during the pleasure of the council that appointed the individual but, unless ended sooner, ends with the ending of the term of office of the council. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7, s. 49 (7).

By **December 13, 2024**, please provide to Lori McCord Lori.McCord@porcupinehu.on.ca or Rachelle Cote coter@timiskaminghu.com your municipal appointee's:

- Name
- Council Position (if applicable)
- Phone number
- Email address
- Municipal resolution

Yours in Health Protection and Health Promotion,

Dr. Lianne Catton
Medical Officer of Health and
Chief Executive Officer
Porcupine Health Unit

Dr. Glenn Corneil
Acting Medical Officer of Health and
Chief Executive Officer
Timiskaming Health Unit