

Community Merger Update

Date: March 6, 2025

Northeastern Public Health strives 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.

Northeastern Public Health (NEPH) 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 (Rachelle.Cote@neph.ca) or Lori McCord (Lori.McCord@neph.ca).

Where are we now?



- The Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit is in place and meeting regularly.
- Continuing to integrate some programs and services.
- In addition to the phone numbers and websites already in existence, we can also be reached at 1-877-442-1212 and www.neph.ca. Staff emails have been updated to firstname.lastname@neph.ca

1-877-442-1212



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- Continuing to develop a branding strategy, which includes input collected from community partners, the public, and staff.

Communities and Public Health

- Projects within the following programs and surveillance systems have begun to be harmonized, which has reduced duplication and enhanced efficiencies:
 - School Health Program
 - School Dental Program
 - Population Health Assessment Program, such as seasonal respiratory surveillance and wildfire-related air quality updates for the legacy [Porcupine](#) and [Timiskaming](#) regions.
- These are great examples of the synergies and effective collaborations to date, and we look forward to many more positive outcomes as NEPH.

Next steps

- Ongoing change management and team building workshops for leadership and teams.
- Continuing to work on program and service integration.
- Ongoing branding strategy work.

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Messaging for your community members

- Northeastern Public Health began operations on January 1st, 2025. Office locations will stay the same. Programs and services also stay the same, unless otherwise notified. Our public health work remains focused on addressing local priorities and will adapt to meet the everchanging needs of our communities.
- Pre-existing logos may still be seen during this interim period before the new logo and brand for NEPH are launched.
- Staff will continue to engage with the public, community partners, First Nations communities, and municipalities to provide updates and maintain strong local connections.
- The Board of Health for the Northeastern Health Unit is comprised of 6 provincial appointees and 13 municipal representatives from across the region. The new board chair is Mayor Michelle Boileau and the vice chair is Councillor Mark Wilson.
 - The other Board of Health members include Councillor John Curley, Councillor Andrew Marks, Mayor Jeff Laferriere, Councillor Gary Fortin, Councillor Casey Owens, Mayor Peter Politis, Mayor Marc Dupuis, Mayor Tory Delaurier, Councillor Paul Kelly, Councillor Carol Lowery, Councillor Savion Nakogee, Cindy Marks-Campbell, Cathy Dwyer, Suzanne Perras, Todd Steis, David Lowe, and Curtis Arthur.
- Harmonizing all programs and services will take time and it is likely that each community will differ slightly in the programs and services they receive based on local need.

Strengthening public health in Northeastern Ontario

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