

Lakelands Public Health Board of Health Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026. | **Called to Order:** 4 p.m. EST | **Video:** [Watch on YouTube](#)

Elections

The Board of Health approved the election of the following members for leadership positions for 2026:

- Deputy Mayor Ron Black, Chair and
- Councillor Cecil Ryall, Vice Chair

Recognition – Departing Board Members

The Board of Health shared appreciation and well wishes for departing Board Members Paul Johnston, Provincial Appointee and David Marshall, Provincial Appointee.

Medical Officer of Health Update

Dr. Thomas Piggott, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for Lakelands Public Health, provided an update that included:

- Acknowledgement of Public Health and Healthcare Work Through Respiratory Virus Season: Recognition of healthcare professionals who have been working hard throughout the respiratory season, which has brought on more deaths and illnesses due to more circulating influenza H3N2 subclad K, and lower vaccine coverage than prior to the COVID pandemic. COVID rates continue to increase in the last few weeks along with RSV rates, however rates of severe disease from RSV is far lower than in recent years thanks to the RSV vaccine.
- Recognition of Public Health Impacts of Global Uncertainty: Acknowledgement that many people are feeling unsettled by the uncertainty in the world right now, especially with ongoing events in the United States and the broader challenges of affordability and inequality facing our communities. Times like these can feel heavy and unpredictable, and it's important to acknowledge that this weighs on all of us in different ways. We want to recognize the resilience, compassion, and professionalism our staff and community members continue to show every day.

Reports**9.1.Presentation: Strategic Plan Progress and Workplace Culture Update**

The Board of Health was presented with the conclusionary results of 'Phase 1: Staff Engagement and Culture Plan' and was presented in more detail in respect to 'Phase 2: External Engagement'. Arising Collective has been engaged as the consulting partner leading this work on behalf of the Board of Health. Overall engagement with staff and the management team was extremely high with an ultimate desire to see a unified culture. Lakelands Public Health will be embarking on external engagement to ensure the community knows what Lakelands Public Health does.

9.2.Committee Appointments

The Board of Health approved board member and community member appointments to its Committees for 2026 including the Indigenous Health Advisory Circle and Stewardship Committee.

9.3.Meeting Schedule and Honourarium

The Board of Health approved the 2026 meeting schedule that includes a rotation around the three larger offices and also a planned meeting in Curve Lake First Nation.

The Board of Health approved a remuneration amount of \$100 per meeting for 2026, no increase from 2025.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Peterborough Office, 185 King Street, and will be in-person/hybrid.

Agenda and Meeting Package

To view the Board of Health Meeting Summary, Agenda and Package please visit LakelandsPH.ca/BOH.

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