

Lakelands Public Health Board of Health Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026. | **Called to Order:** 4:09 p.m. EST | **Video:** [Watch on YouTube](#)

Board Received Cultural Teachings

Jayden Jacobs, Anishnaabemowin Coordinator at Curve Lake First Nation, welcomed the Board to the Territory and provided an introduction to Indigenous cultural practices. He guided members through the tradition of smudging with sage and sweetgrass, and shared teachings on the cultural significance of tobacco, sacred fires, and the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

Medical Officer of Health Update

Following the cultural teachings, Dr. Thomas Piggott reflected on the significance of the timing, noting that the meeting took place during National Indigenous Peoples Month with National Indigenous Peoples Day approaching that Sunday. He also acknowledged Pride Month, highlighting its importance in the context of public health, particularly in supporting the 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and the organization's ongoing commitment to health equity.

Additional updates:

- **Blastomycosis Inquest:** Correspondence was sent to the Provincial Coroner in response to the Blastomycosis Inquest. The submission highlighted the work Lakelands Public Health has undertaken to collaborate with First Nation communities, as well as ongoing efforts to advance health equity and access to public health services within those communities.
- **2026 alPHa Conference:** Dr. Piggott, Vice Chair Councillor Ryall and additional Lakelands Public Health staff attended the alPHa (Association of Local Public Health) 2026 conference. Key learnings included emerging trends in chronic disease, insights into the current provincial landscape, and concerns regarding the future funding for public health.
- **Emerging Infectious Disease:** Individuals previously identified as at risk of hantavirus exposure have now passed the incubation period, and no cases have been reported in the region, a reflection of the effectiveness of public health prevention efforts. Ebola continues to evolve globally, with ongoing challenges related to vaccine availability and healthcare capacity. While there have been no cases in Ontario to date, precautionary measures remain in place to help ensure continued protection.

Reports

7.1 Presentation: Tick Surveillance and Lyme Disease

The Board received an update from Dr. Stephen McCarthy, MD, MPH, PhD, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident, on tick surveillance efforts by Lakelands Public Health, including the selection of surveillance sites across the region. He noted the black-legged tick (also known as the deer tick) is of particular concern due to its role in transmitting Lyme disease to humans. Reported cases of Lyme disease in Ontario have almost doubled from 2022 to 2025.

7.2 Stewardship Committee Report: 2025 Draft Audited Statements

The Board approved the 2025 Audited Financial Statements, marking the first audit to reflect Lakelands Public Health as a merged entity, following separate reporting by the legacy health units in prior years. The audit included large transactions related to the merger and integration of accounts, and noted that 2025 results may differ from prior years due to one-time impacts such as the payout of the legacy Peterborough mortgage. Auditor Richard Steinging of Baker Tilly was present to address questions. The auditors found no issues and confirmed the financial statements were presented fairly.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 4 p.m. in Peterborough at Lakelands Public Health, 185 King Street, and will be in-person/hybrid.

Agenda and Meeting Package

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

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