

Lakelands Public Health Board of Health Meeting Summary**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2026. | **Video:** [Watch on YouTube](#)**Board Chair Recognizes Truth & Reconciliation**

Board Chair and Deputy Mayor Ron Black, highlighted Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 21 – 25) and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, emphasizing the importance of listening to Indigenous voices and acting on reconciliation commitments.

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:

- **Municipal Election:** Lakelands Public Health is hosting a virtual education session for municipal election candidates on September 22 to improve understanding of public health roles, governance, and funding.
- **Influenza Season:** The first local influenza outbreak of the season has been identified, approximately one month earlier than typically expected. Preparedness and response activities are underway.
- and public vaccination campaigns are expected to begin in the coming weeks.
- **Environmental Health Challenges:** Challenges occurred over the summer, including:
 - Wildfire smoke events affecting air quality.
 - Extreme heat events impacting vulnerable populations.
 - A record Lyme disease season, reflecting continued spread of tick populations throughout the region.
- **BYOB Legislation:** Highlighted concerns regarding Ontario's Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB) amendments to the Liquor Licence and Control Act if municipalities in the region create bylaws to opt-in. Public health concerns include increased alcohol access and normalization, higher consumption, increased emergency department visits, relapse risks for individuals with alcohol use disorder, and broader healthcare system costs associated with alcohol.
 - The Board endorsed correspondence from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit on this matter (Report 8.9) and will be writing to municipalities

Reports**7.1 Presentation: Strategic Planning – Board of Health Update**

More than 700 residents, staff, partners, and Indigenous community members shared feedback to help shape Lakeland Public Health's new strategic plan. Overall the organization was seen as a trusted and respected source of health information and services. Participants said it is important for public health to:

- maintain a strong presence in local communities
- improve communications
- ensure rural areas remain connected to services

The top health issues identified were:

- mental health and addictions
- healthy aging

- climate change
- food insecurity
- access to primary care
- early childhood development
- Indigenous health

The new strategic plan, to be approved by the Board of Health in early 2027, will focus on strengthening workplace culture, building strong community partnerships and health equity, and delivering effective and efficient public health services.

7.2 Presentation: Indigenous Health Update

An update was provided by Hallie Atter, Director, Community Health Division, on Indigenous health initiatives and future planning. Lakeland Public Health's longstanding relationships with First Nation communities and Indigenous partners was highlighted with its ongoing commitment to advancing Indigenous health equity. Next steps include developing Indigenous Health Equity Commitments informed by community input, validating those commitments with communities, seeking Board endorsement, and continuing work to strengthen culturally safe service delivery and decision-making.

7.3 Staff Report: Associate Medical Officer of Health Appointment

Dr. Thomas Piggott introduced Dr. Maxwell Tran as the new Associate Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Tran completed his Doctor of Medicine (MD) and a combined Family Medicine and Public Health & Preventive Medicine (PHPM) residency at the University of Toronto, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership by serving as Chief Resident for both programs. During his residency, he also earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was recognized as a prestigious Sommer Scholar. The Board approved the recommendation to appoint Dr. Maxwell Tran as Acting Associate Medical Officer of Health, subject to Ministerial approval.

Advocacy

The Board of Health endorsed several items of correspondence, demonstrating its support for the following:

- Global Conflict, Health Equity, and Community Preparedness (Report 8.6)
- Bill 121, Save a Life Act, 2026 (Naloxone Kit Registration and Public Access) (Report 8.7)
- Protecting Canadians from Biological and Cybersecurity Risks: An Opportunity to Collaborate with Local Public Health (Report 8.8)
- Recommendations for Municipalities on Ontario's Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB) Legislation (Report 8.9)

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the Port Hope Office, 200 Rose Glen Rd. 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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