

## **Board of Health Meeting November 16, 2023**

### **Summary**

#### **2024 Public Health Budget**

The Board of Health approved the 2024 General Public Health Programs Budget of \$14,093,975, along with proposed mitigation strategies to manage the expected 2024 budget shortfall.

These strategies include:

- Delays in recruitment for vacant positions
- Salary Differentials
- Leave of Absence Without Pay

Starting in 2019, a change in the provincial grant led the Health Unit to arrange for an increase in the municipal monthly payment with a lump sum reimbursement paid back to municipalities at year-end. For 2024, the Board of Health has agreed to make the higher municipal monthly payment permanent with no lump sum reimbursement at year-end (this amounts to a 9.7% overall increase). The Board of Health also agreed to update the allocation of the municipal levy to each municipality based on the 2021 census, with some municipalities paying more and some paying less, based on their updated proportion of the population.

#### **Board Stipend**

The Board of Health approved no change to the Board stipend of \$90.71/meeting for provincial appointees and the Chair of the Board.

#### **Respiratory Illness Dashboard**

A new Respiratory Illness Dashboard has been launched and has information about COVID-19 and flu cases, outbreaks, and much more.

<https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/local-cases-and-statistics/dashboard/>

#### **2022 Annual Report**

The 2022 Annual Report is available on the Health Unit website and summarizes the important work of health unit staff done in 2022.

<https://healthunit.org/about/performance-accountability/>

#### **Household Food Insecurity**

Living with food insecurity means not getting enough nutrition and energy a body needs to grow and function. Our Household Food Insecurity report with our findings was published earlier this month.

[https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/Addressing\\_Food\\_Insecurity\\_in\\_LGL.pdf](https://healthunit.org/wp-content/uploads/Addressing_Food_Insecurity_in_LGL.pdf)

Food insecurity is an income issue, and reducing food insecurity requires income solutions. Our report also has considerations for potential policy changes that would reduce household food insecurity in our region.