

April 24, 2024

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Minister,

Re: Motion regarding Public Health Ontario Labs

Please be advised that at its regular meeting of April 23, 2024, Loyalist Township Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-94

Moved by Deputy Mayor Townend
Seconded by Councillor Willis

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (i.e. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT As stewards of care for the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022, Council of Loyalist Township urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report.

AND FURTHER THAT this motion be circulated to Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Shelby Kramp-Neuman MP of Hastings-Lennox and Addington, Ric Bresee MPP of Hastings-Lennox and Addington and all municipalities, for their support.

Motion carried.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk
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613-386-7351 Ext. 121

cc: Shelby Kramp-Neuman MP - Hastings-Lennox & Addington
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Deputy Mayor Townend, Loyalist Township
Councillor Willis, Loyalist Township
Ontario Municipalities