

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Local public health leaders discuss regional needs with Province

Local public health leaders from Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) recently attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference. While at the conference, representatives from NWHU met with two Provincial Ministers to highlight the unique needs and disparities of the region.

“We had great discussions with Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, about NWHU’s immunization model and how it helps to support local health care. We also discussed the results of our merger assessment, and reviewed pieces of the final report with them. Our materials included that our region has different needs than other areas in the province and highlighted the vast geography of the north,” says Marilyn Herbacz, Chief Executive Officer at NWHU.

NWHU officials also met with the Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy. “Our meeting with the Minister of Finance focussed on the negative impacts of alcohol in the NWHU region, particularly the statistics related to youth. We discussed the added vulnerability of children and youth and how we can work together to better protect them from alcohol related harms such as motor vehicle accidents, injury, and dependency,” says Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU.

Overall, attendees from the NWHU felt the conference was a valuable opportunity to connect with others and bring issues faced in northwestern Ontario to the forefront. They are hopeful that the discussions will lead to improved health for our region’s residents.

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From L to R: Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU; Marilyn Herbacz, CEO at NWHU; Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Trudy Sachowski, NWHU Board of Health member and aIPHa Chair; Doug Lawrance, NWHU Board of Health Chair.

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From L to R: Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health at NWHU; Trudy Sachows-ki, NWHU Board of Health member and aPHa Chair; Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health; Marilyn Herbacz, CEO at NWHU; Doug Lawrance, NWHU Board of Health Chair.