

Municipal Services Committee Meeting – May 27, 2024

**Agenda Item #11.2**

Notice of Motion: Councillor Dunfield: Public Health Ontario Labs

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Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Be it resolved, that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes supports Resolution #2024-94 from Loyalist Township regarding urging the Provincial Government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the Auditor General’s Report on [Value-for-Money Audit of Public Health Ontario](#).

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kantharajah".

Anne Kantharajah  
Township Clerk  
[akantharajah@loyalist.ca](mailto:akantharajah@loyalist.ca)  
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