

May 23, 2024

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Monica Hawkins  
Clerk  
Municipality of East Ferris  
25 Taillefer Road  
Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

**RE: Audited Financial Statements, Financial Information Return (FIR), and COVID-19 Update**

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, and your 2023 Municipal FIR Schedule 77 are attached for your review. The status of the Municipal Reserve as of December 31, 2023, can be found on page 11 note 5, of the financial statements.

We would like to update you on the Health Unit's financial situation. We have confirmation that the Health Unit will receive a 1% increase in provincial mandatory cost-shared funding for 2024. We were requested to explore merging with another neighboring health unit. We have done this but no agreement to merge was reached. The funding to offset the new sharing formula with municipalities has been confirmed for 2024, which added \$1,792,400 provincial funding to base funding for 2024. A new funding approach for Public Health is currently being discussed at the provincial level with a release of the new expectations planned for Spring 2025, with an effective date of January 1, 2026. You can reach out to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for further information on this topic. Additional funding related to Health Unit COVID-19 responsibilities for 2024 is not expected. We are currently discussing plans for our fall COVID-19 response within our current budget allocations.

On a more positive note, the availability of the Municipal Reserve could help offset municipal funding costs and enable the Board of Health to make plans for 2025 and beyond. The Ontario Public Health Standards are currently under review, with a feedback process just beginning. If you are asked for feedback on the work of Public Health at any time, please contribute to the process.

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Even with limited funding increases and cutbacks due to inflation factors, we continue to be committed to working with you to protect the health of our people and their communities.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Zimbalatti

Carol Zimbalatti, M.D., CCFP, MPH  
Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

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Enclosures (2)

Copy to: Board of Health

Signature: Carol Zimbalatti  
Carol Zimbalatti (May 23, 2024 15:28 EDT)

Email: carol.zimbalatti@healthunit.ca