

Monica Hawkins

From: Erika Lougheed <erika.lougheed@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Monica Hawkins
Subject: letter to include
Attachments: Climate Change Motion Letter of Support for East Ferris 2019 06 04.pdf

Hi Monica,

Please include the attached letter from the health unit with the motion I submitted for next week.

Thanks,
~erika

June 4, 2019

To whom it may concern:

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) is pleased to offer a letter of support for the Municipality of East Ferris for its proposed declaration of a climate emergency. Climate change is an urgent issue that affects us all and has serious implications for public health.

There is well-documented scientific evidence on the health impacts of climate change. Climate change is expanding the range of vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus. It is contributing to an increase in high temperatures, leading to heat-related mortality and morbidity. Extreme weather events are contributing to and exacerbating cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and are associated with poor mental health outcomes¹. Climate change is expected to have significant impacts in northern Ontario, leading to shorter and warmer winters, longer and hotter summers, increased annual precipitation, and greater unpredictability of severe weather events².

The *Ontario Public Health Standards (2018)*, outline a public health mandate to promote the development of healthy built and natural environments that support health and mitigate existing and emerging risks³. Climate change impacts our food systems, built environments, natural environments, and remote residents. While urgent action is required to reduce the health risks of climate change, climate action can also yield substantial health benefits for our communities⁴.

We applaud the Municipality of East Ferris for recognizing the importance of this issue. Thank you for considering a commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, and we look forward to the opportunity for collaboration on this important public health issue.



James Chirico, H.BSc., M.D., F.R.C.P. (C), MPH
Medical Officer of Health / Executive Officer

¹ Ontario Public Health Association (2018). Consultation on Made-in-Ontario Climate Change Plan. Retrieved from <https://opha.on.ca/getmedia/76eaf432-d43a-4a40-81aa-1b01b6b2fd86/OPHA-Submission-on-Climate-Change-Plan-Consultation-November-16-2018.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf>

² Climate Atlas of Canada (2018). Climate Atlas Report: North Bay Region. Retrieved from https://climateatlas.ca/data/grid/304/plus30_2060_85

³ Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2018). Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario.

⁴ Watts, Amann, Arnell, Ayeb-Karlsson, Belesova, Berry et al. (2018). *The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come*. The Lancet, 392 (10163), 2479-2514.