

June 9, 2021

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Jason Trottier
Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer
Municipality of East Ferris
390 HWY 94
Corbeil, ON P0H 1K0

Dear Mr. Trottier:

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

The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Audited Financial Statements for the year-ended December 31, 2020, and your 2020 Municipal FIR Schedule 77 are attached for your review. The status of the municipal reserve as of December 31, 2020, can be found on page 13, note 4, of the financial statements.

We would also like to update you on the Health Unit's financial situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are monitoring the extra costs incurred to respond to COVID-19, and we are also monitoring cost savings related to regular work reductions.

When the Health Unit drafted its annual funding request, additional funding to cover both general COVID-19 extraordinary costs (e.g. Call Centre and personal protective equipment [PPE]) and costs related to the COVID-19 immunization initiative throughout the district were included in the request. These requests are currently in the approval process with the Ministry of Health (Ministry); we hope to have a positive response to the requests by early July.

Of note, the Health Unit did receive a letter from the Minister of Health, Christine Elliott dated January 13, 2021, (Appendix A) confirming the Ministry's support for pandemic and regular programming.

If the Health Unit receives the additional funding requested, there will be no risk of increased levy costs for 2021.

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To: Jason Trottier, Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer

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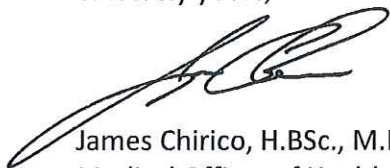
Date: June 9, 2021

The Health Unit is not considering staff layoffs at this time as all staff are needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic response, along with prioritized regular program work. Approximately 150 additional staff have been hired on a temporary basis to assist with the COVID-19 immunization initiative.

Confirmation of 2022 funding, including any mitigation funding, is pending. Should the change to the 30/70 municipal/provincial cost-sharing be fully implemented, this would mean an increase to the 2022 municipal levy by 42% or more above the current 2021 levy amounts.

The Health Unit remains committed to protecting the health of our communities, and will keep municipalities apprised of any significant changes to our status.

Sincerely yours,



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

/sb

C: Board of Health

Enclosures

Ministry of Health

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and Minister of Health

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January 13, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons, Boards of Health
Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Units
Chief Executive Officers, Public Health Units

RE: 2021 COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs

Ontario's public health system has demonstrated remarkable responsiveness to COVID-19, as the outbreak has evolved locally and globally. The government acknowledges the extraordinary and continuing efforts of the public health sector, including public health units, to monitor, detect, and contain COVID-19 in the province.

For the 2021 funding year, public health units are expected to take all necessary measures to continue to respond to COVID-19 in their catchment areas, support the Ministry of Health in the provincial roll-out of the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, and continue to maintain critical public health programs and services as identified in Board of Health approved pandemic plans.

As the COVID-19 response continues, we do anticipate that many public health units will continue to incur additional expenses to support these efforts. In recognition of these unique circumstances, we want to assure you that there will be a process for public health units to request reimbursement of COVID-19 extraordinary costs incurred in 2021. Similar to previous processes, we ask that these costs be those over and above what can be managed from within the budget of the Board of Health, and that you continue to track these costs separately.

Thank you for the important service that your public health unit provides to Ontarians, and your ongoing dedication and commitment to addressing the public health needs of Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Christine Elliott'.

Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Associate Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Units
Business Administrators, Public Health Units