

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Date: November 22, 2019

Re: Emergency Health Services and Public Health Modernization Update

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On Nov. 18, 2019, Ministry of Health (the Ministry) held a webinar and released two discussion papers to launch consultations on Emergency Health Services and Public Health modernization. This memo provides an update on the consultation process and next steps.

### **The Ministry will undertake consultation on modernization of both Emergency Health Services and Public Health simultaneously**

- The Ministry will undertake consultations beginning in late November, 2019 to:
  1. Gather and validate insights on the needs and challenges faced in Emergency Health Services and Public Health systems
  2. Explore solutions and innovations to improve these systems
- The Ministry has prepared two discussion papers which they are treating as surveys: A discussion paper/survey for [Public Health](#); and a discussion paper/survey for [Emergency Health Services](#). The deadline for responding to the discussion paper/surveys is February 10, 2020.
- The consultation approach will also include in-person meetings and an email box for email submissions.
- The Ministry's advisor on modernization of Public Health and Emergency Health Services, Jim Pine, committed to providing an update and preliminary findings at the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference on January 19-20, 2020.

## **Ministry staff stated that the approach to consultation on modernization is a reset with no predetermined outcomes**

- The Ministry confirmed that previously announced timeline of April 2020 for appointment of new boards for the planned ten public health autonomous entities in the 2019 Ontario Budget is no longer applicable.
- Consultations on Public Health modernization will explore opportunities to improve capacity to respond to emerging needs; to be better coordinated and consistent in population health approaches and as well as be better equipped with quality data on health status to support priority setting.
- Consultations on Emergency Health Services modernization will focus on opportunities to improve dispatch technologies; address lengthy ambulance offloading times and delay in transporting medically-stable patients; improve coordination between emergency health services partners; scale up local innovations; and address equitable access to services across regions. The Ministry reconfirmed it does not intend to privatize Emergency Health Services; however, staff stated the Ministry is open to exploring more than just municipalities delivering ambulance services.

## **Next steps**

- York Region welcomes the opportunity for consultation and looks forward to participating actively and highlighting York Region's service innovations and efficiencies.
- Staff will review the discussion papers on the respective areas and prepare submissions for Council's consideration at February 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole.

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Katherine Chislett  
Commissioner of Community and Health Services

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