

June 11th, 2019

Minister Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
777 Bay Street, Suite 5N
Toronto, M7A 2J3
Ontario, Canada

Re: Infection Prevention and Control Canada supports public health

Dear Minister Elliott,

Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) expects federal/provincial/territorial governments to put the health and safety of all Canadians first. The Ontario government announced a reduction in the number of public health units from 35 to 10, and a new funding formula anticipated to result in savings of \$200-million annually to begin next year. To ensure the most effective transition to the new model, while preserving service levels, IPAC Canada has included recommendations herewith that address infection prevention and control in a leaner public health system.

IPAC Canada is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary association representing infection prevention and control professionals across Canada in various healthcare settings. Our membership includes Ontario's public health employees, who work to prevent and mitigate the impact of public health threats such as antimicrobial resistance, measles, influenza, SARS, Ebola, and food and water-borne illnesses.

We acknowledge the government's aim is to reduce administrative costs. The current investment into infection prevention and control programs in our public health units ultimately saves taxpayers from expensive reactionary, cascading implications caused by outbreaks. IPAC Canada urges you to demonstrate a commitment to the health of Ontarians by ensuring:

- funding levels for infection prevention and control services are maintained to protect public health during this transition;
- resources are in place to respond to public health threats, such as antimicrobial resistance, vaccine hesitancy, communicable diseases, and emerging pathogens; and
- current numbers of infection prevention and control professionals are maintained, at a minimum, to manage outbreaks in local healthcare and community settings.

IPAC Canada appreciates your consideration and welcomes further discussion.

Sincerely,



(Ms.) Gerry Hansen
Executive Director, IPAC Canada