



October 20, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott,
Deputy Premier Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Hepburn Block 10th Floor 80
Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9
Via email: Christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Dr. Kieran Moore,
Chief Medical Officer
Public Health, Ministry of Health
BOX 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3
Via email: Kieran.moore1@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Elliott and Dr. Moore,

On behalf of Southwestern Public Health, County of Oxford, County of Elgin and the City of St. Thomas, please accept this letter as a formal and immediate request for reimbursement by the Ministry of Health for SWPH's Covid-19 response and vaccination expenses in order to address current cashflow issues associated with awaiting the province's timely reimbursement of COVID-19 one-time extraordinary expenses.

At its October Board of Health meeting, the Board approved issuing an additional levy of \$4,000,000 to its obligated funding municipalities to manage the ongoing needs of its public health unit in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency. This additional levy was needed to ensure SWPH would be able to continue to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency including meeting its payroll obligations and paying its bills. Issuing additional levies to municipalities who all have their own funding pressures, in order to cover the delay in timely provincial reimbursement is disconcerting and regrettable. As you know, the demands of public health units related to managing this emergency response have been unprecedented. As such, SWPH has incurred significant costs and it has not yet received reimbursement for the total of those costs.

While the Ministry of Health has been straightforward in its commitment to fund Covid-19 expenses incurred by health units, SWPH and its obligated municipalities cannot stress enough the importance of **timely** Ministry of Health COVID-19 reimbursement to ensure interrupted emergency response work. Timely access to funding is a basic principle of emergency preparedness and emergency response.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Larry Martin
Board Chair, Southwestern Public Health
Warden, Oxford County



Tom Marks
Warden, County of Elgin



Joe Preston
Mayor, City of St. Thomas

c: J. Yurek, MPP Elgin Middlesex London
E. Hardeman, MPP Oxford
C. St. John, CEO, Southwestern Public Health
M. Duben, CAO, Oxford County
J. Gonyou, CAO, County of Elgin
W. Graves, CAO, City of St. Thomas