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Nov 1, 2023 · 64 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1719771987667489258](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1719771987667489258)

Coming up at 2 pm, it's this month's Board of Health Meeting. This is what's on the agenda for November:



MEETING PREVIEW: Board of Health Meeting for November 1, 2023

After taking October off as usual, the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Board of Health is back, and kicking off the month with some fairly important information, including, you guessed it, the 2024 budg...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/10/26/meeting-preview-board-of-health-meeting-for-nove...>

It looks like Guelph Councillor Rodrigo Goller is chairing today. He has called the meeting to order.

Sorry, having extreme technical difficulties joining the meeting. Please stand by.

Medical Officer of Health update: Dr. Mercer says that there's presently no RSV vaccine for children, but she believes that one will be available by this time next year. She also notes that this Radon Action Month! <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/your-home/radon-testing>

Busttil asks about if there's a requirement to do radon tests. Mercer says it's not a requirement in Ontario to have your basement tested, but some places in Canada have made it a requirement when selling your home.

Busuttil notes that it's an area of concern with the City encouraging accessory units like basement apartments. Mercer notes that if someone is sleeping in the basement, you should be especially aware of the risk b/c that's where radon gathers.

Gardhouse asks about people with persistent coughs, should they hold off getting vaxxed? Mercer says if you're feeling well with no fever, then you're probably fine to get your shot. If you think you had COVID and didn't test, you're safe to get the shot.

If you did confirm with a test that you had COVID recently, you're probably good to wait for a few months, or even until next year.

Caton asks if there's any accomodation for high risk people under 60 to get the RSV vaccine. Mercer says there's nothing stopping a doctor from doing a risk assessment (off label), but

presently it's just approved for 60+.

Next, two items on the consent agenda:

6. Consent Agenda

- [BH.01.NOV0123.C13](#)
 - Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings
- [BH.01.NOV0123.C14](#)
 - Health Protection 2023 Third Quarter Performance Indicator Summary (January 2023 – September 2023)



Caton asks to pull Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings report. Health Protection 2023 Third Quarter Performance Indicator Summary (January 2023 – September 2023) report approved.

We're moving to the presentation of the 2024 - 2028 Strategic Plan. Associate MOH Tenenbaum begins noting that the previous WDGPH Strat Plan expired 2020, they've been working under 1-year plans though the pandemic, but can now look to the long-term.

You can check out the full Strat Plan here:

https://wdgpublichealth.ca/sites/default/files/bh.01.nov0123.r27_-_appendix_a.pdf

Dave Augustyn, Associate Director of Interkom and his colleague Jordan Mammoliti are presenting and looking at how they came up with the plan.


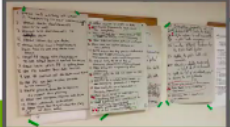



Project Initiation

- Complete document review
- SWOT analysis and Environmental Scan
- Meeting with and feedback from Senior Leadership Team

Internal & External Partner Consultations

- Online staff survey
- Facilitated in-person staff sessions (3)
- External partner Open Houses (3)
- Telephone interviews



Board & Staff Workshop

- Review of documentation and all partner consultation
- Prioritized challenges and aspirations identified by partners
- Developed Strategic Plan Framework, including Vision, Mission, Values



Plan Finalization

- Senior Leadership Team workshop to review draft Strategic Plan
- Finalized Plan



Augustyn says each of the priorities feed into the goals and those goals feed in to the mission and vision.

Vision: Health and Well-Being for all

Mission: WDG Public Health protects health and promotes overall well-being so everyone in our communities can thrive

GOAL 1

Improve health outcomes

PRIORITIES

Reduce health inequities

Help make the healthy choice the easy choice

Help our communities prepare for immediate and emerging health risks

Tailor our responses to meet health challenges

Support upstream interventions that promote health

GOAL TWO

Focus on children's health

PRIORITIES

Support the community's approach to delivering children's services

Promote best and emerging practices to optimize child development

Provide input on healthy children's public policy

and...

Work within the community to address systemic challenges that children and families face

GOAL THREE

Build strong partnerships

PRIORITIES

Equip community partners to make the best decisions

Share Public Health expertise to help reduce health gaps
 Help our partners adapt their services to our local needs
 Support each other in our roles as community partners
 and...
 Engage partners in a shared system

GOAL FOUR

Innovate our programs and services

PRIORITIES

- Strategically invest in technology
- Utilize our resources more efficiently
- Cultivate a culture of learning and improvement

GOAL 5

Lead the way toward a sustainable PH system

PRIORITIES

- Actively participate in the Provincial health system changes
- Continue to use our value for money principles in everything we do
- Keep WDGPH as a great place to work • Be a Public Health trailblazer / leader

All these powers combined...



Goller thanks staff and consultants for the great work. Busuttil says that she likes the summary and the values and also thanks everyone for the hard work.

Strategic Plan approved unanimously.

Next, Client and Community Support. Lisa Hebden, Manager of Client and Community Support all present. Mercer says she's excited about this report.

Actually, Katrina Arellano one of the nurses at Public Health will present. This is how CCS works:

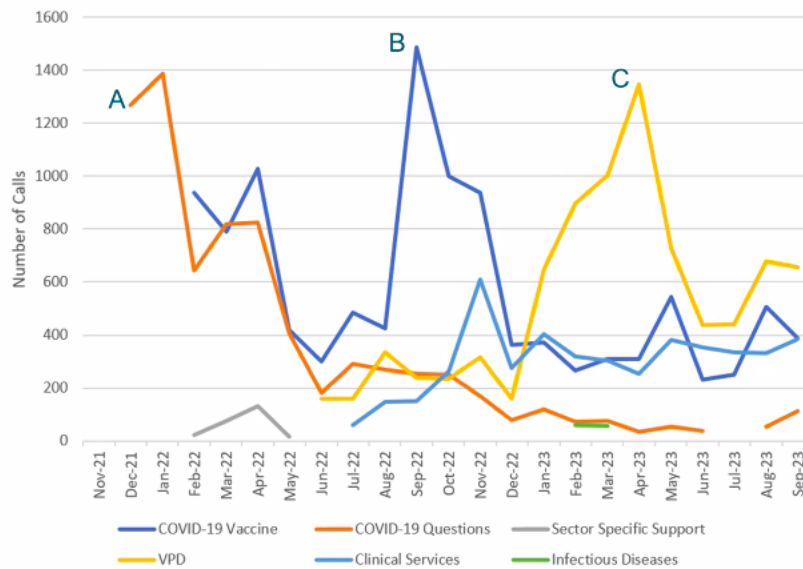


The CCS has grown from its original function, which was as the COVID-19 call centre, to be a reference for all types of public health questions.



Call topic trends:

Appendix C Call Topic Trends



That information helped inform what the "seasons" of public health are, the times of year where the public health office is seeing demand for specific services or questions.

THE SEASONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PROGRAM	QUARTER 1			QUARTER 2			QUARTER 3			QUARTER 4		
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CLIENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT												
ChatBot Launch												
GUD - Needs Assessment												
Vision Program												
Pediatric Screening Tool for Vaccines												
BOD Report												
Telus CHR - Client Self Booking												
Community Partner Breastfeeding Training												
Lean Project												
AGST Training												
COVID 19 Flu Clinic Training												
Indigenous Awareness												
Community Partner Breastfeeding Training												
VPD - SCHOOL CLINICS												
G7 Schools - clinic letter sent out												
Grade 7 School Clinics												
High School Clinics												
VPD ISPA SUSPENSIONS												
HS Notices Mailed Out												
HS Suspension Plan												
HS Suspension Orders Delivered												
HS Suspension Day												
Elem. Notices Mailed Out												
Elem. Suspension Plan												
Elem. Suspension Orders Delivered												
Elem. Suspension Day												
Day Care Notices Mailed Out												
FLUID CAMPAIGN												
Planning												
Training												
Clinics Offered												
CLINICAL SERVICES												
TB Skin Tests												
STI Screening												
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH												
Vector Borne Disease												
Water												
Tobacco/Health Hazard												
Rabies												
Duty to Report Rabies Advisory												
Recreational and Camps												
Food Borne Illness												
Child Care - Respiratory Illness related												
DENTAL TEAM												
Parents service requests												
INFECTIOUS DISEASE												
Respiratory Infections												
Enteric Diseases												
HPAI (highly pathogenic avian influenza)												

Appendix E

General overview of peak times for each of the different teams in the agency

The Chatbot is one of the innovations created from the changes to the CCS, it's available 24/7 and it helps people find info online anytime in an easy and accessible way.

How to access CCS:

1-800-265-7293 x7006 (M-F, 9-4)

clientcommunitysupport@wgdpublihealth.ca

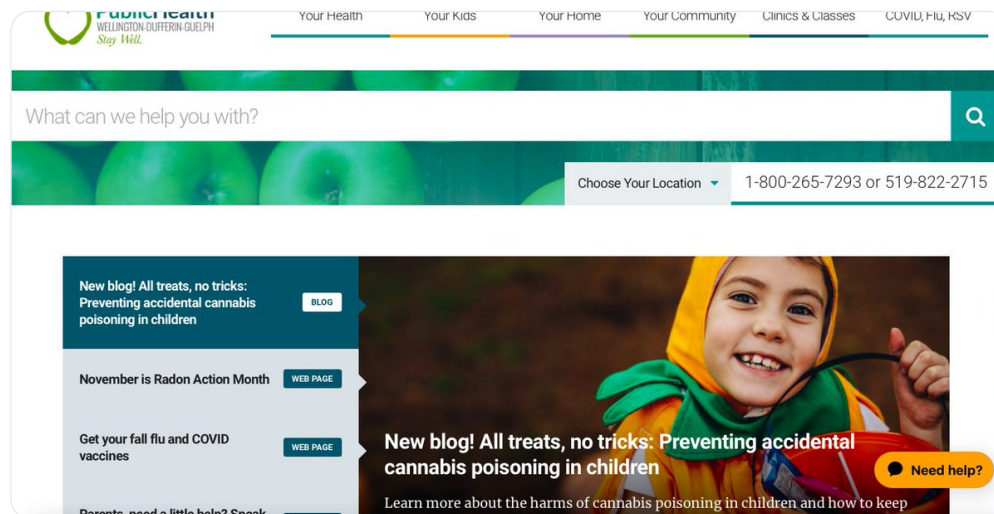
Client and Community Support

How to access us



Mercer adds that staff are constantly strengthening both the questions and the answer functions on the chatbot and it always leads back to a live nurse so there is oversight.

Manktelow asks about how to access to the chatbot. It's the orange button at the bottom right of the screen when you go to the WDG homepage. Covers about 52 topics right now, and Hebden says they see a lot of use outside normal biz hours.



Busuttill asks about tech to book appointments for seniors, sometimes they can't fill out their info to book an appointment before they lose the slot. Rita Isley head nurse says there's always a prompt to get help if people are stuck filling out online.

Hebden adds that they also work with CCS to book appointments for families since there is a gap in the system trying to book multiple appointments. Caton says this tripped her up trying to book a shot for them and their daughter.

Caton asks about parent groups that are sharing information about health matters. Mercer says the comms team is very active on many of those groups and are able to jump in and

provide insight. Hebden adds their active with own FB page too.

Anderson notes that there are so many seniors in rural areas that don't have laptops or smart phones, need to stay on top of old-fashioned comms too. Isley says every campaign that focuses on seniors comes with a print version incl. newspaper ads.

Mercer adds that they recognise that while the world's changed, there's still a broad audience that needs to be served. They're keenly aware that there are multiple points of communication, including Dr Mercer's weekly appearance on CTV K-W Thursdays.

Motion to receive the report for information approved unanimously.

Next, question from Caton about Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings, What's the process for submitting immunisation details? Isley says there's a link on the website to update record, or submit info by phone, mail or in-person.

Caton asks if there are any materials for new Canadians or returning residents who have different vaccine schedules. Isley says there's different skeds across Canada even, so they can work with the family to meet the requirements.

Motion to receive the report on Immunization Coverage in Schools and Licensed Childcare Settings is approved.

Finance + Audit Committee Reports with committee chair Chris White. First report is the Annual Facilities Update, which looks at the repairs and changes to the two facilities WDGPH own and the one that they rent.

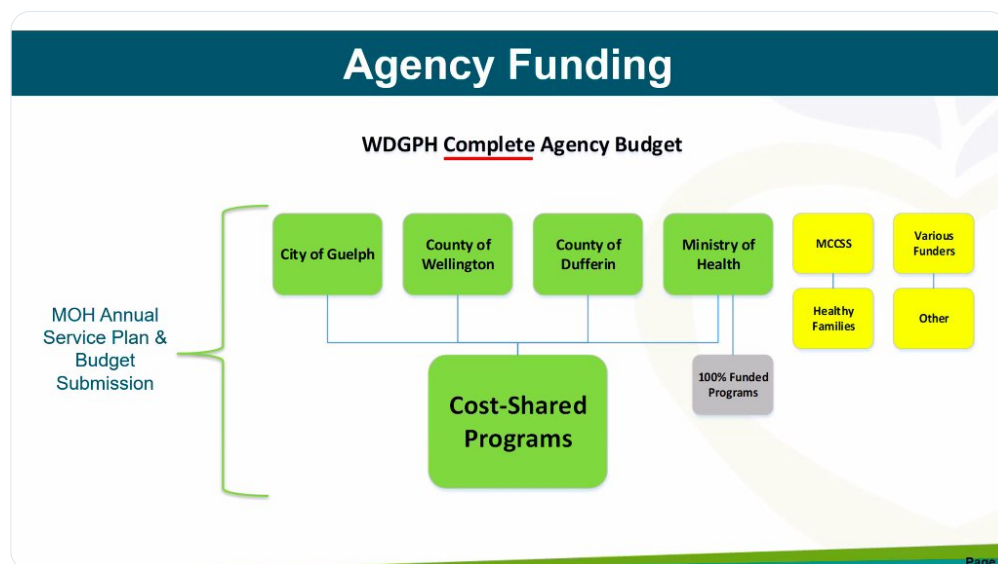
The Annual Facilities Update is received for information.

White asks for any questions about the second or third quarter financials. There are none.

Those reports are approved.

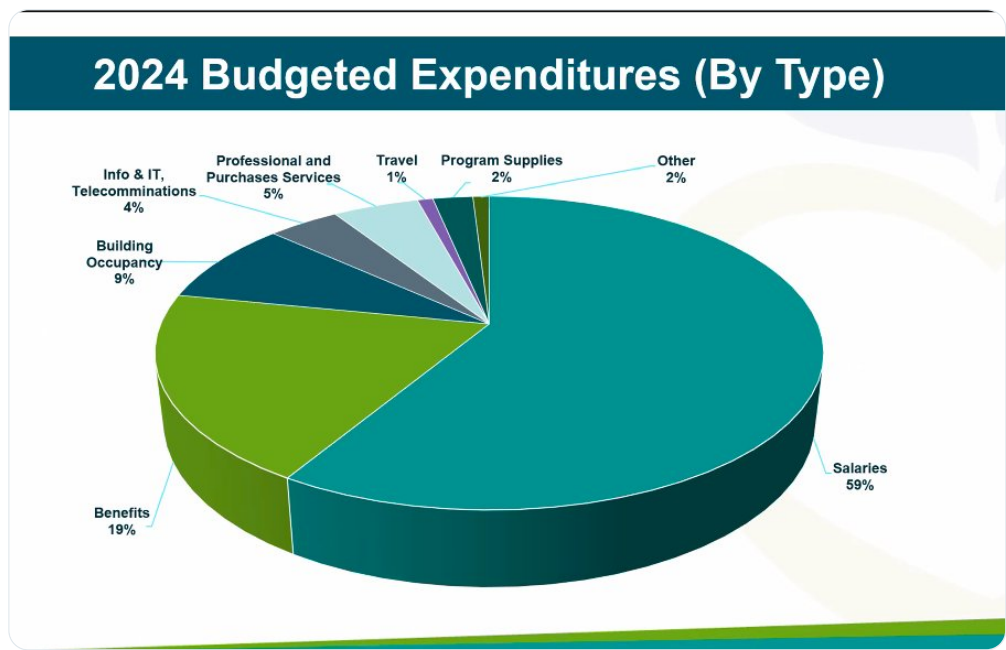
Next, 2024 Draft Budget. David Kingma, Director of Administrative Services & CAO presents.

Let's look at the funding structure:



Worth noting: 2023 will likely be the last year for the COVID-19 reimbursement from the provincial government.

Here's the budget breakdown by expenditure areas:



Here's the changes in the cost shared budget, meaning services that are not 100% covered by a provincial ministry. Kingma says that a 1% increase is expected for next year, and that ONgov is aware of pressures on PHs.

Cost-Shared Programs Budget (1)			
	2023	Change	2024
Funding:			
Provincial	\$15,041,375	\$150,415	\$15,191,790
Municipal	9,252,814	240,573	9,493,387
Transfer from Reserve	0	300,000	300,000
Other	29,765	0	29,765
Total Funding	\$24,323,954	\$690,988	\$25,014,942
Expenditures:			
Employee Costs	\$18,792,439	\$887,923	\$19,680,362
Operating Costs	5,419,540	(84,960)	5,334,580
Total Expenditures	\$24,211,979	\$802,963	\$25,014,942
Net Budgeted Surplus (Deficit)	\$111,975	\$(111,975)	\$0

For municipalities, there's a 2.6 per cent year-over-year increase for 2024, and that has been communicated to the finance offices at the various partner municipalities.

Changes to the 100% funded budget:

Ministry of Health 100% - Funded Programs (2)

	2023	Change	2024
Funding	\$1,553,875	\$90,625	\$1,644,500
Staffing Expenses	\$706,352	\$52,669	\$759,021
Operating Expenses	769,370	116,109	885,479
Total Expenses	\$1,475,722	\$168,778	\$1,644,500
Budgeted Surplus (Deficit)	\$78,153	\$(78,153)	\$0

High level summery:

Summary

- **Ministry base increase of 1%**
- **Municipal base request for funding increase is set at 2.6% overall**
- **Salary increase of 3.75% for most employee groups in 2024 (New four year contract with ONA Union 2024 3.75%, 2025 3%, 2026 3.25%, 2027 3%)**
- **Non-statutory benefit rates increase April 1, 2024 based on projections provided by Mosey and Mosey (e.g. Medical 2.1% - 7.6%, LTD 2.4% - 11.3%)**
- **Increase in IT subscriptions, licensing fees, phone service fees, laptops (+27%)**
- **COVID-19 costs above and beyond our budget are captured separately and submitted to the Ministry of Health for reimbursement**

Areas of risk? Inflation (obviously) and minimal changes to the provincial funding for the long-term.

White thanks Kingma and his team and says the 2.6% is a responsible ask given the pressures municipalities are facing.

Manktelow asks about the \$300k being taken from reserves. Kingma says that was done so that they can get to a balanced budget, and it's likely they won't have to make that transfer with gapping and savings, but optically, ONgov needs to see funding is strained.

Kingma notes that the buildings will be paid off by the third quarter of next year, which might loosen things up, but things are looking tight again by the time 2027 rolls around.

Anderson says he doesn't think municipalities will have an issue with the increase because they know the value for money.

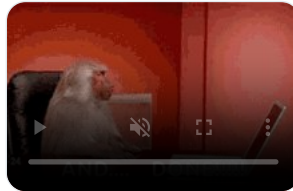
Draft budget approved unanimously.

The board will now move into closed session on a couple of topics.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session Minutes of SEP 6/23 [labour relations or employee negotiations]
- To receive MOH Updates [labour relations or employee negotiations and personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].
- To receive Closed Session BOH Report BH.01.NOV0123.R29 – 2023 Cybersecurity Assessment [the security of the property of the BOH].
- To receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.OCT1023.R08 – Reserves + Reserve Funds Status [the security of the property of the BOH].

Well, the meeting link has terminated so I guess the assumption is that nothing of consequence will come out of the closed session. So I guess that's a wrap!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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