

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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MAR 08 2012

His Worship Joe Fontana
Mayor
City of London
214 - 300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor ~~Fontana~~: *Joe*

I am writing to you in response to the City of London's request to the province to appoint an assessor to carry out an assessment of the Board of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit pursuant to section 82 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA).

It is the duty of a Board of Health to provide or ensure the provision of public health programs and services as required by the HPPA and Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS). Part of this responsibility includes setting priorities and determining the appropriate allocation of its resources.

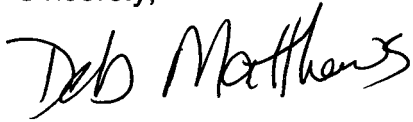
Under section 82 of the HPPA, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care or Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) may order an assessment of a board of health to: (a) ascertain whether the board of health is providing or ensuring the provision of health programs and services in accordance with sections 5, 6, and 7 of the HPPA, the regulations and the OPHS; (b) ascertain whether the board of health is complying in all other respects with the HPPA or the regulations; or (c) assess the quality and management or administration of the affairs of the board of health. The decision whether or not to conduct an assessment is at the sole discretion of the minister or CMOH.

The ministry does not become involved in budget deliberations between a Board of Health and its obligated municipalities. These matters are managed by the local Board of Health. Accordingly, the ministry will not be appointing an assessor to conduct an assessment of the Board of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit at this time.

Mayor Fontana

The government remains committed to improving access to high quality public health services for the residents of the City of London, and I encourage you to continue to work with the Board of Health to reach a collaborative solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Deb Matthews
Minister

- c: Viola Poletes Montgomery, Chair, Middlesex-London Board of Health
- Dr. Graham Pollett, Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Division
- Roselle Martino, Executive Director (A), Public Health Division