

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel 416-327-4300
Fax 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du ministre

10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél 416-327-4300
Télé 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca



MAR 05 2013

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OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

His Worship Joe Fontana
Mayor, City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
PO Box 5035
London ON N6A 4L9

RECEIVED MAR - 8 2013

Referred to *M. Hopperscraft, A. Zudema*
Subsequent Referrals
 For Action For Report
 For Information For File
City Clerk

Dear ~~Mayor Fontana~~: *Joe*

I would like to thank you and the representatives from the City of London for meeting with me at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference in Ottawa on August 21, 2012.

At the meeting, you discussed:

- emergency medical services;
- provincial funding for the Middlesex-London Board of Health; and,
- the authority of the City of London to implement an administrative model for the Board of Health.

Please note that the Government committed to 50-50 sharing of land ambulance costs with municipalities and in 2012 the Ministry will provide Middlesex County (the Designated Delivery Agent for land ambulance services for the City of London) with a total of \$12,598,926 as its share of land ambulance costs.

With regard to the issue of funding for the Middlesex-London Board of Health, it is the duty of boards of health to provide or ensure the provision of public health programs and services as required by the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) and Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS). Part of this responsibility includes setting priorities and determining the appropriate allocation of resources.

Under section 72 of the HPPA, it is the responsibility of obligated municipalities in a public health unit to pay for the expenses of the Medical Officer of Health and the board of health. The legislative authority for provincial funding to boards of health can be found in section 76 of the HPPA, which specifically states that "the Minister may make grants for the purposes of this Act on such conditions as he or she considers appropriate." As such, this funding is discretionary.

The Ministry has made every effort to ensure appropriate funding for Ontario's public health system, including uploading the cost of mandatory programs to 75 per cent and providing additional growth funding. Between 2003 and 2012, provincial funding for mandatory and

related public health programs and services for the Middlesex-London Board of Health increased by more than \$11.8 million, or 159 per cent (including both uploaded costs and increased investments in public health capacity).

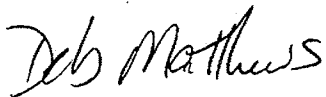
The Ministry expects that board of health budgets will recognize and incorporate the identified needs of their communities and will balance local priorities with the Ministry's clear direction for fiscal restraint. If the total eligible costs of the board of health exceed the Ministry's approved funding, then the obligated municipalities are responsible for the costs. The Ministry is currently not in a financial position to increase base budgets over and above any increases the Ministry may approve for mandatory programs over the coming years.

The City of London does not have the authority to implement a new administrative model for the delivery of public health programs and services. These matters are managed by the local board of health. The Middlesex-London Board of Health, which is an autonomous board of health under the HPPA, is directly accountable to the residents of Middlesex and London for the management and delivery of public health programs and services.

The government remains committed to improving access to high quality public health services for the residents of the City of London, and the Ministry encourages the City to work with the Middlesex-London Board of Health to reach a collaborative solution.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

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

Deb Matthews
Minister