



Municipal Liaison Program Report 2024

Program Overview

Working with local municipalities is an essential part of effective public health practice, and collaboration between municipal and public health staff supports positive outcomes in the community. There are 17 municipalities across Huron and Perth counties, including two upper-tier, two single-tier, and 13 lower-tier. In 2024, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) adopted a more structured approach to collaborating with municipalities in order to:

Establish or strengthen relationships between municipal and public health staff.

Improve understanding of local community context, which informs public health programming.

Increase internal HPPH collaboration to support coordination and reduce duplication.

Support municipalities in how they interact with public health.

Actions in 2024

Launch

Launched an internal Municipal Collaboration Network to connect HPPH staff who interact with and provide services to municipalities.

Liaise & Learn

Assigned three Public Health Promoters to act as liaisons. Stayed current in local community context by beginning to review municipal communications.

Collaborate

Initiated alignment meetings to learn about municipal priorities, plans, by-laws, processes and consultations relevant to public health, and to identify collaboration opportunities.

“Our Municipal Liaison Strategy has brought us closer to our municipal partners, helping us work together to collectively support community health and well-being.” ~ Public Health Manager



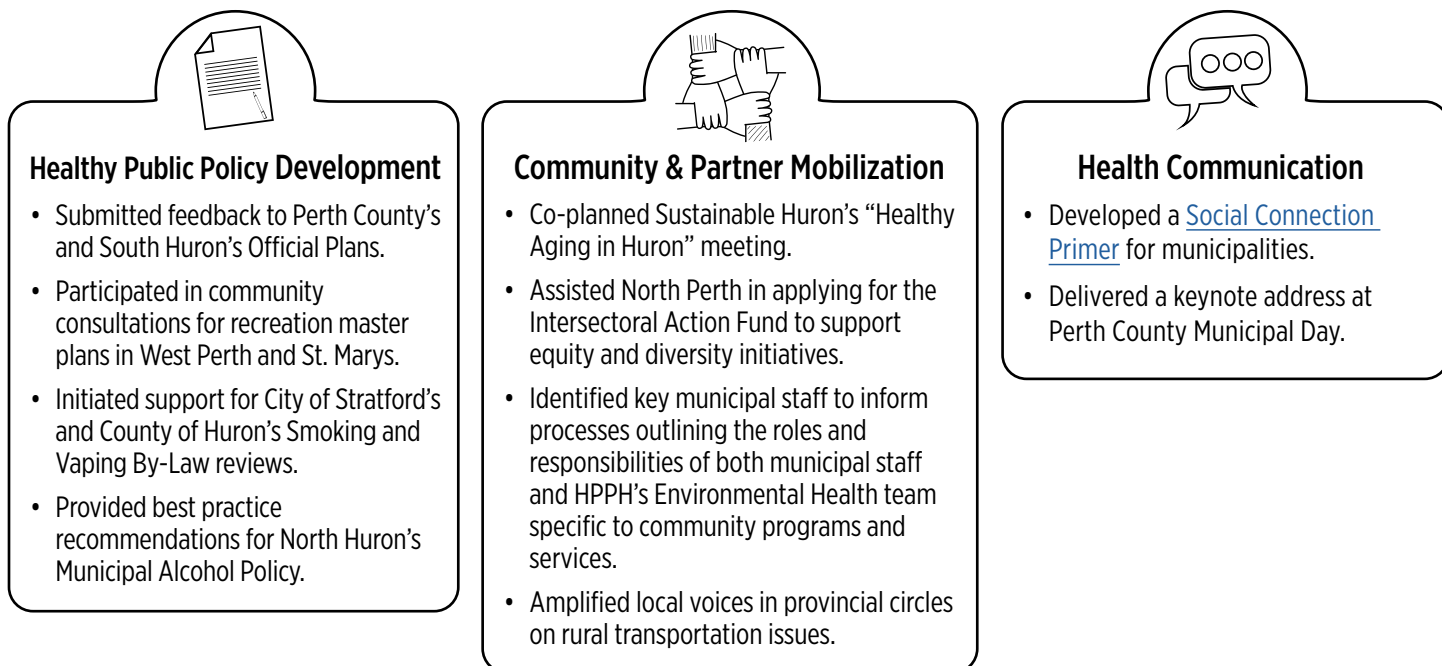
Municipal Alignments

There were 148* municipal alignments in 2024, initiated by municipalities or by HPPH. These alignments encompassed various interactions, from informal discussions and meetings to defined outcomes. While some alignments remain informational, others have sparked larger initiatives and have evolved beyond an initial discussion.



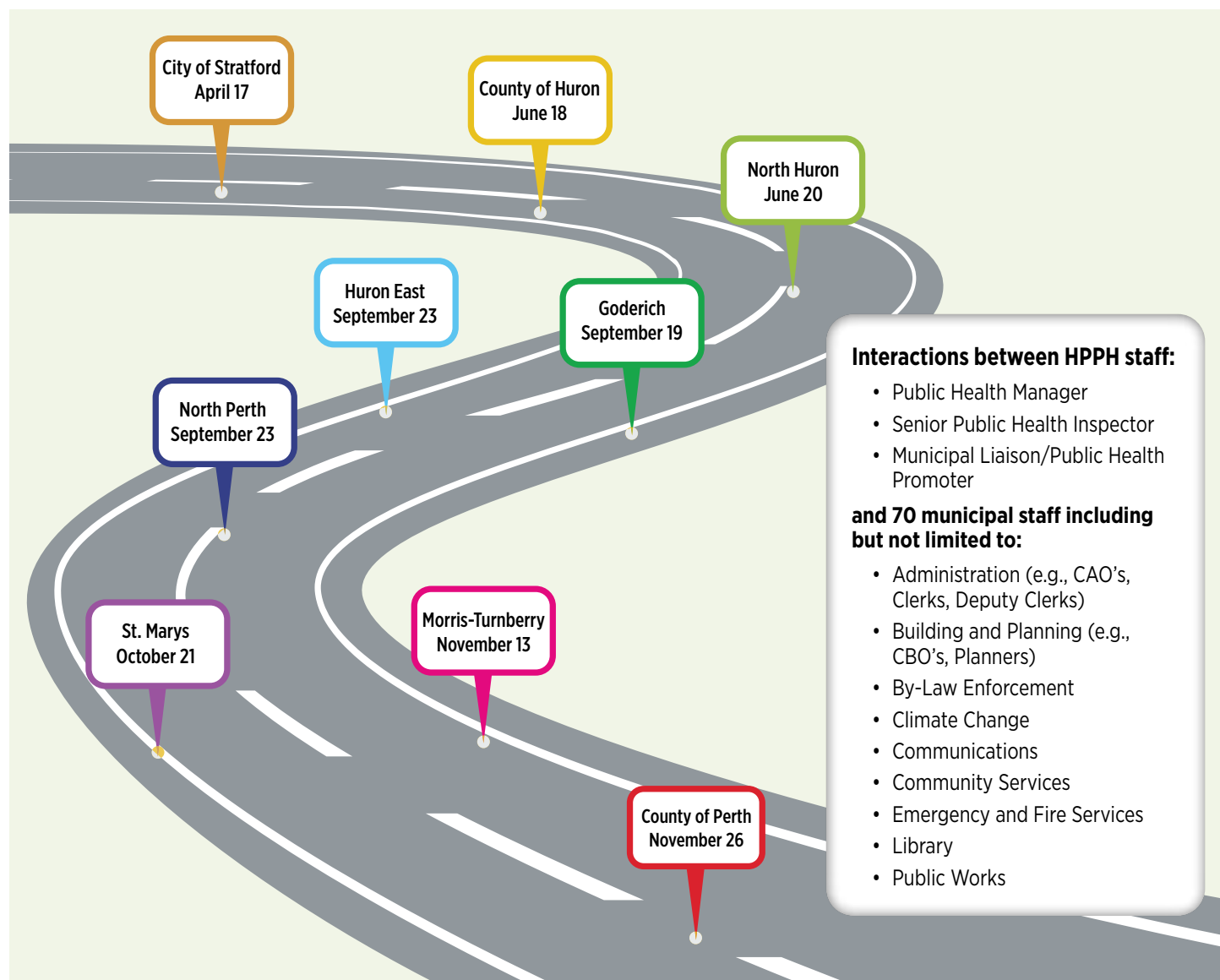
** This count includes alignments and communications as identified by the Municipal Liaisons and is not representative of every interaction with municipalities across all health unit programs and services.*

2024 Alignment Outcomes: Snapshot





Nine Alignment Meetings in 2024



"[The Public Health Promoter] possesses a wealth of experience in public health initiatives related to outdoor recreation, and her collaboration could be invaluable to the ongoing promotion and improvement of our town's facilities." ~ Municipal Staff



Ontario Public Health Standard Areas Covered Through Some Alignment Opportunities



Built and Natural Environment

E.g., providing feedback to Official Plans and Recreation & Park Master Plans.



Environmental Health

E.g., formalize food premises and complaints processes.



Injury Prevention

E.g., supporting road safety and falls prevention initiatives.



Healthy Aging

E.g., supporting Sustainable Huron.



Substance Use Prevention

E.g., alcohol, smoking and vaping by-law support.



Sexual Health & Harm Reduction

E.g., sending pride flag raising letters.



Climate Change

E.g., possible collaboration opportunities.



Mental Health Promotion

E.g., promoting the [Social Connection Primer](#).

What's Next in 2025

Collaborate

Complete follow-up from actions identified in 2024. Continue to collaborate with municipalities, build relationships, and find synergy within community programs and services.

Liaise & Learn

Extend invitations to remaining municipalities, requesting an alignment meeting. Onboard two additional Municipal Liaisons.

Sustain

Set a calendar that outlines municipality alignment meeting frequency and re-meet with those who will be participating in annual alignment meetings.

Contact municipal@hpph.ca for:

- a consult with HPPH staff
- evidence-informed strategies
- opportunities to collaborate



Huron Perth
Public Health



www.hpph.ca

1-888-221-2133