

Board of Health and Toronto Public Health: Overview

February 21, 2023

What is public health?



What is Public Health?

Three key goals of public health:

1. Maintain and improve the health of the population
2. Reduce inequities in health
3. Prepare for and respond to outbreaks and emergencies

Public health achieves these goals by:

1. Measuring and understanding the issues impacting the population's health (social determinants of health, health inequities)
2. Prioritizing interventions within its scope and available resources
3. Principally focusing on prevention and acting at the population level where efforts are most effective
4. Applying an understanding that public health is a public good

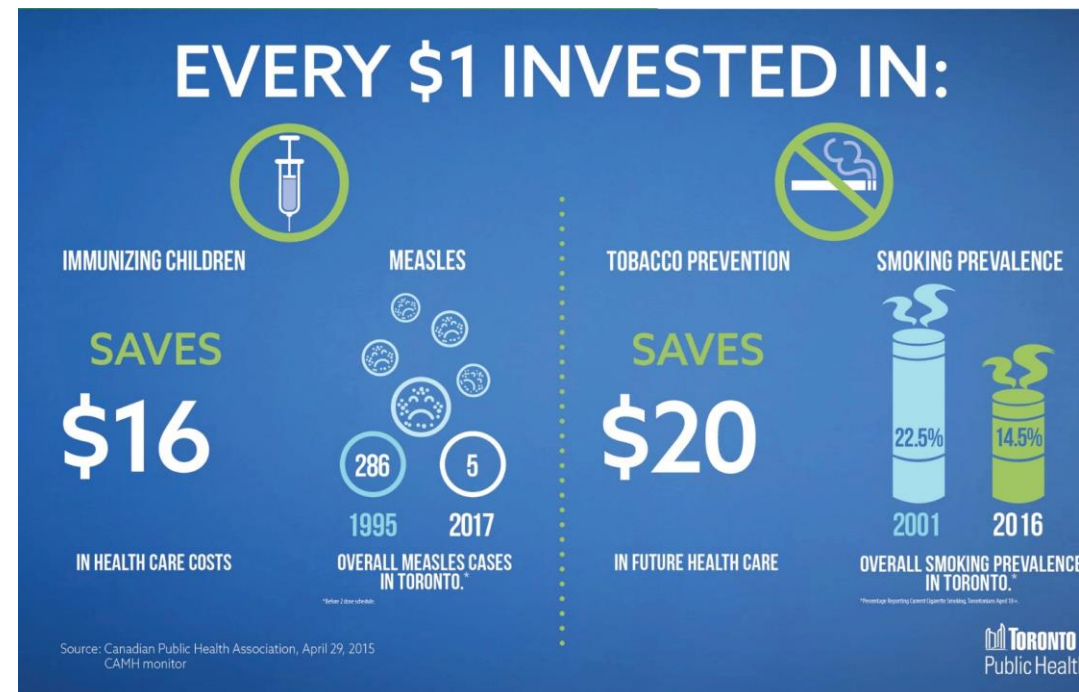
What is Public Health?

A partner to healthcare with key distinctions:

	Health Care	Public Health
Goal	Diagnosis and treatment Care of the individual ill patient	Epidemiologic assessment and prevention Improvement in population health status and reduction of inequities
Mandate focus	Primary focus on individuals seeking care	Entire population and groups/communities experiencing health inequities
Predominant nature of intervention	Medical care	Spectrum of multi-faceted interventions from prevention to enforcement, delivered by health and non-health providers
Target of intervention	Individual	Groups, neighbourhoods, communities, cities
Responds to	Clinical service demand	Health risk factors and determinants
Time-course for evaluation	Short-term outputs and outcomes	Long-term outcomes across the lifespan

The Value of Prevention

- Public health interventions have contributed to increased life expectancy (e.g. immunization, smoking cessation)
- Investment in public health provides value for money and cost savings



Public Health Legislation and Governance



- The Health Protection and Promotion Act establishes:
 - Board of Health Mandate
 - Medical Officer of Health authority
 - Ontario Public Health Standards
- In addition, dozens of provincial acts impact public health. Examples include the Immunization of School Pupils Act and the Smoke Free Ontario Act
- The City of Toronto Act and the Board of Health Procedures By-Law also govern the Board of Health

- The Board is accountable for ensuring adherence to provincial public health requirements, meeting other local population health needs, and advising City Council on health-related issues
- The Board is accountable for the funds received from the province and the City to support the provision of public health services within Toronto
- In its governance role, the Board of Health provides overall direction to the Medical Officer of Health, who in turn makes operational decisions to respond to the Board's direction

- Under the City of Toronto Act, City Council:
 - appoints Board of Health members
 - appoints the Medical Officer of Health
 - provides public health staff
- The Mayor is responsible for proposing the City's Budget. The Board of Health makes recommendations on Toronto Public Health's Budget.



- Appointed by City Council, subject to approval by the provincial Minister of Health
- Has statutory authority to address health hazards and communicable disease threats
- Health advisor to the Board of Health and City Council
- Serves as the Division Head for Toronto Public Health

Toronto Public Health: Who we are and what we do

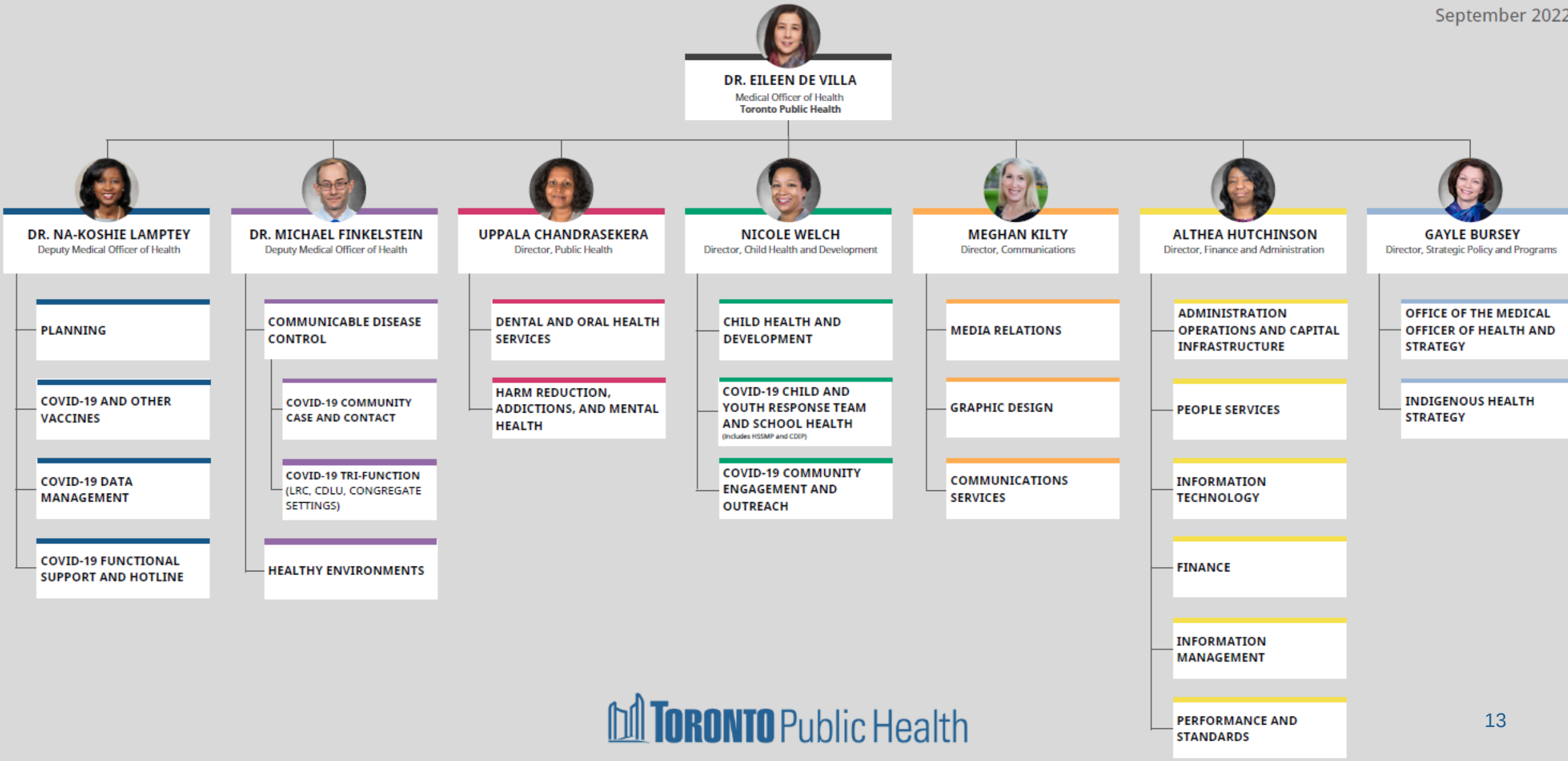


- Toronto Public Health is Canada's largest public health unit.
 - 2023 Council-approved Operating Budget: \$369.0 million*
 - 2023 Council-approved Capital Budget and Plan: \$33.9 million
 - Approved Complement: 2,309.9 Positions*

*Includes the following for COVID-19 activities: \$99.1 million in the Operating Budget and 412 Positions

- Toronto Public Health's work is guided by three main factors:
 1. the Health Protection and Promotion Act and the Ontario Public Health Standards
 2. direction from the Board of Health, and input from City Council
 3. epidemiologic information on population health issues facing Toronto and evidence on potential interventions

Toronto Public Health Organizational Structure



- Manages publicly funded vaccine orders, assesses population vaccine needs, and immunizes groups to reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases in Toronto
- Informs COVID-19 response and recovery decision making through use of information, policy analysis, communication of trends, and process improvement and evaluation

Highlights

- Toronto Public Health fixed immunization clinics administered over 1.8 million COVID-19 doses in 2021-2022, while mobile clinics administered more than 115,000 doses over the same period
- The COVID-19 Hotline handled over 700,000 emails and calls since the start of the pandemic
- Over 1.1 million COVID-19 lab records were processed
- In 2022, 567 reports and surveillance products were produced for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 diseases, in addition to 380 COVID-19 data reports/dashboards

- Health Protection is responsible for the Toronto Public Health programs and services that reduce the risk of infectious diseases and environmental hazards through inspections, investigations, education, health services and interventions in the City's environment

Highlights

- Investigated 26,953 COVID-19 cases and 342 outbreaks in 2022. Responded to other concurrent outbreaks (MPOX, invasive meningococcal disease) while undertaking emergency planning and preparedness for Ebola
- In partnership with Toronto Water, successfully implemented Predictive Modeling Pilot project for beaches to better identify when beaches were off limits to swimming
- In 2022, approximately 20,000 confirmed STI cases were reported and investigated by Toronto Public Health, including 534 cases of HIV/AIDS and 2,292 cases of syphilis. In a typical year, 18,000 clients visit the TPH sexual health clinics
- In 2022, TPH provided food safety related information to over 1000 special event organizers and inspected 790 food vendors to ensure food was being prepared safely

Harm Reduction, Addictions, and Mental Health

Uppala Chandrasekera, Director

- Harm Reduction, Addictions, and Mental Health implements interventions to prevent and address substance use and promote mental health and wellness, while reducing health and social harms through building capacity at the individual, organizational, community and policy levels

Highlights

- The Works maintained clinical operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with a temporary disruption in March 2020 to implement infection, prevention, and control measures
- In 2022, The Works supported over 21,000 visits for supervised injection and prevented 517 overdoses. Staff provided nursing services, prevention of communicable diseases, and health and social support
- The program leads the development and implementation of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy for Toronto and the Toronto Overdose Action Plan, engaging City Divisions, community partners, and people with lived experience
- As directed by the Board of Health, TPH led an application to Health Canada to decriminalize the possession of drugs for personal use. Toronto is the third jurisdiction in Canada to take this step to reduce the harms and the stigma associated with criminalization

- Services to reduce the levels of oral disease in eligible populations, and to improve the oral health status of Toronto's population through screening, prevention, treatment, outreach and education

Highlights

- Dental and oral health clinical services remained open during the entire COVID-19 pandemic
- The Ontario Senior Dental Care Program launched in 2019, and funding allowed for expansion of the staff complement to 276 positions
- In 2022, there were 17,453 unique client visits to TPH dental clinics, and of these 12,684 were seniors
- The program continues to grow. Two clinics have opened at Jane and Finch at Yorkgate Mall, and in Rexdale at 222 Dixon Road, with eight clinic renovations since 2019 and more upcoming.
- The program also operates Mobile Dental Clinics, providing oral health services on a bus. Two new vans are arriving in Spring 2023

Child and Youth Health and Development

Nicole Welch, Director and Chief Nursing Officer

- Child and Youth Health and Development responds to local needs using population health assessments to facilitate the potential of Toronto's children and individuals in their reproductive years, early childhood, school age and youth to make the healthiest choices possible and to meet their full potential

Highlights

- Applied an equity-focused approach to support over 800 schools across all public boards to achieve their unique health goals and priorities, with particular emphasis on topics such as mental health and well-being, and infectious disease prevention
- Provided COVID-19 support to schools, including 1354 infection prevention and control assessments; offering COVID-19 testing to 126,000 students and 16,000 staff; and 280 presentations covering infection prevention and control, vaccine engagement including student immunizations, and respiratory illnesses and prevention
- Administered over 130,000 Student Immunization Program vaccines to over 50,000 students as part of catch-up efforts
- 1000+ live video and telephone breastfeeding intervention and counselling services provided in the fourth quarter of 2022

- Toronto Public Health operates in a complex administrative, financial, and accountability governance environment and is obligated to numerous parties, including the City of Toronto and multiple provincial ministries
- Finance and Administration strives to partner with TPH programs, City administration and funding partners to identify and mitigate risks and bring to bear solutions that will support TPH to achieve the best health outcomes for Torontonians

Highlights

- Oversight of and fiduciary responsibility for an annual operating budget of approximately \$270 million and 1,900+ full time equivalents (*non-COVID-19 budget)
- Student Nutrition Program supports over 210,000 students with over 41 million meals per year
- Toronto Urban Health Fund issues approximately \$4.2 million in grants annually to community based organizations to address HIV prevention and substance use

- New directorate at Toronto Public Health
- Provides strategic planning, advice and guidance that align with TPH's 2022-2023 Interim Priorities, policies, programs & legislated responsibilities
- Supports Senior Management Team and program leads on communication, marketing and community engagement initiatives, including executive counsel

Highlights

- Award-winning team whose accomplishments have been recognized by the International Association of Business Communicators and the Canadian Public Relations Society
- Support and execution of 200 COVID-19 media briefings with the Medical Officer of Health from January 2020 to May 2022
- In 2022, led crisis communications/issues management for COVID-19, MPOX, meningococcal C and rabies

Strategy and Preventive Health

Gayle Bursey, Director

- Provides strategic, operational, and administrative support to the Medical Officer of Health and works with the Senior Management Team on key initiatives and policy that advances Toronto Public Health and City of Toronto priorities
- Leads work on Indigenous health, as well as chronic disease and injury prevention

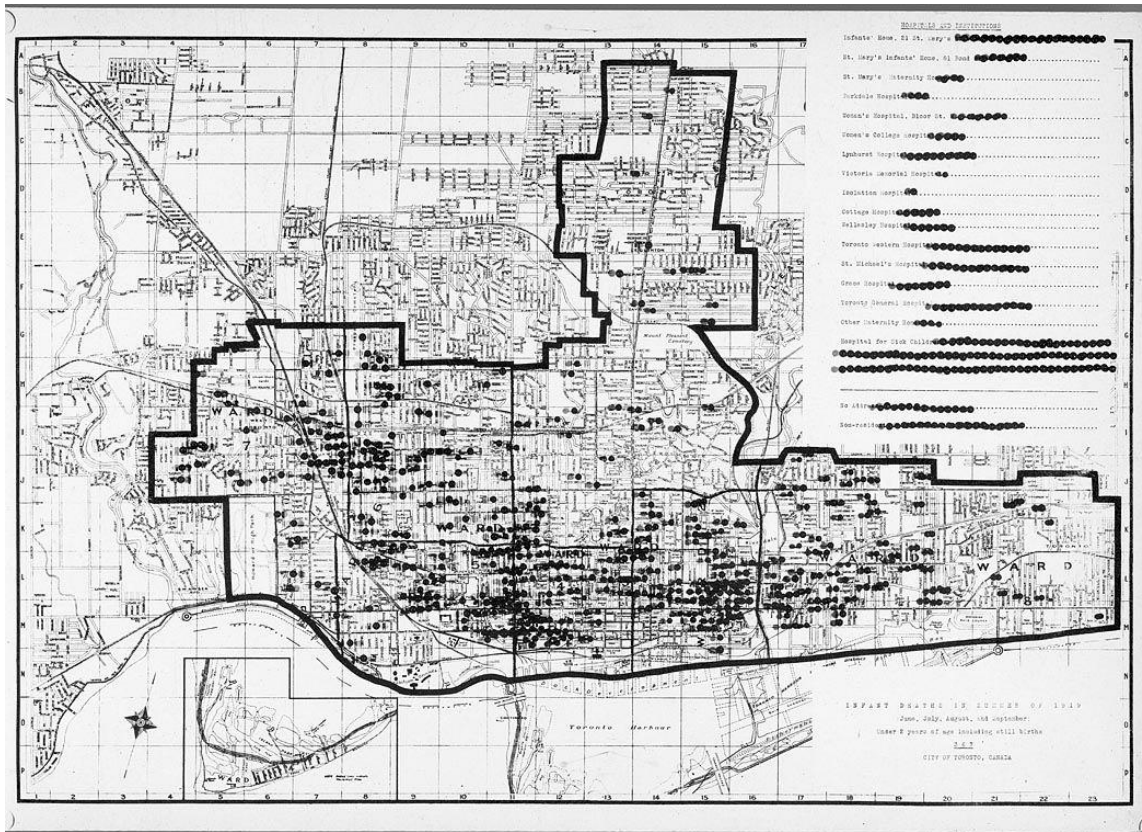
Highlights

- Coordinated extensive reporting to the Board of Health, City leadership, and Team Toronto partners throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Leads the implementation of the Toronto Indigenous Health Strategy
- Led an organization-wide process to establish Toronto Public Health's interim priorities

Toronto Public Health: Key Priorities for 2023



140 Years of Public Health in Toronto



City of Toronto Archives, Series 372 s0372_ss0100_it0126

Map of Infant Deaths, Summer 1919



City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, s0372_ss0032_it0898

Public Health Dental Clinic, 1942

TPH Interim Strategic Priorities

Goals

1. To maintain and improve the health status of Toronto's population
2. To reduce inequities in health status
3. To prepare for and respond to outbreaks of disease and public health emergencies



Principles

1. Evidence-informed decision making
2. Equity
3. Public health is a public good



Organizational Priorities



Continue to respond to COVID-19 and support Toronto Public Health's readiness for other emerging health issues



Respond to the drug poisoning epidemic



Promote mental health



Rebuild public health functions



Foster a resilient workforce



Ensure effective public health practice to achieve health outcomes



Build on lessons learned



Thank You