

Whereas, the Ministry of Health in August 2023 announced its **Strengthening Public Health** initiative which includes funding voluntary Health Unit mergers (as outlined in the Outcomes and Objectives to Support Voluntary Mergers October 2023 document), revising the Ontario Public Health Standards and a new Public Health funding formula;

Whereas, the Boards of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) each passed resolutions in November 2023 to direct their respective Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and Board Chairpersons to seek provincial funding to study the feasibility of a voluntary merger of NBPSDHU and RCDHU and report back to their respective Boards for discussion and direction;

Whereas, senior management and Board Chairpersons for NBPSDHU and RCDHU have since undertaken joint engagement to pursue this study, resulting in the Merger Feasibility Report by Sense & Nous Consultancy dated February 2024, delivered to the NBPSDHU and RCDHU Boards of Health;

Therefore Be it Resolved, that the Board of Health for North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit:

- *Agrees in principle to merge with RCDHU, subject to the following conditions:*
 1. *The Government of Ontario approves the intended merger and this Board in its sole discretion is satisfied that this approval will enable NBPSDHU and RCDHU to successfully complete the intended merger;*
 2. *This Board in its sole discretion is satisfied that the funding commitment from the Government of Ontario is sufficient to enable NBPSDHU and RCDHU to successfully complete the intended merger, including one-time and ongoing transition costs during the transition period, (e.g. service and wage harmonization) and business continuity/stabilization funding in amounts sufficient to ensure program and service delivery stability while change is underway;*
 3. *The legal merger of NBPSDHU and RCDHU (if any) will only be effected in accordance with the terms and conditions of a merger agreement to be negotiated through an additional process that will address important issues including composition of the membership for the new board of health, and resolution of the current discrepancy in municipal funding levels between NBPSDHU and RCDHU;*
 4. *The negotiation, due diligence, consultations, and implementation plan activities do not identify any material issue that this Board in its sole discretion determines will undermine its assessment of the feasibility of the intended merger with RCDHU such that the Board no longer supports the intent to merge; and,*
 5. *The RCDHU Board of Health expresses its intent to merge with NBPSDHU by resolution that this Board in its sole discretion is satisfied is substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions of this NBPSDHU resolution.*
- *The NBPSDHU MOH/EO; Executive Director, Finance, and Board Chairperson; along with two (2) other NBPSDHU Board of Health members appointed to the Joint Merger Working Group be directed to further negotiate within the Joint Merger Working Group to complete a Voluntary Merger Business Case for submission to the Ministry no later than April 2, 2024, fully signed by the Board Chairperson and MOH/EO for the NBPSDHU and the Board Chairperson and MOH and/or CEO for the RCDHU.*
- *The NBPSDHU MOH/EO communicates this resolution to key stakeholders including the Ministry and the RCDHU Board Chair.*
- *The North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit MOH/EO and Board of Health Chairperson ensure timely reporting back to the Board on this matter at future meetings to enable subsequent Board engagement and direction.*
- *Once (and if) the Ministry of Health has provided information on the terms of approval of this merger, this Board will meet for deliberation and decision-making regarding whether to proceed with the intended merger.*