

Locally Developed Collaborative Project (LDCP)

***“HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT -
A PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK
FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN”***

Collaborative project:
18 Health Units, and representatives from
Ontario Public Health Association,
Public Health Agency of Canada,
University of Toronto and Registered Professional Planners.

PUBLIC HEALTH NOW SUPPORTS HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN...



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***“HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT - A PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHY
COMMUNITY DESIGN”***



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- Public Health Ontario and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- 18 Health Units
- Ontario Public Health Association
- Public Health Agency of Canada,
- University of Toronto, and
- Registered Professional Planners.

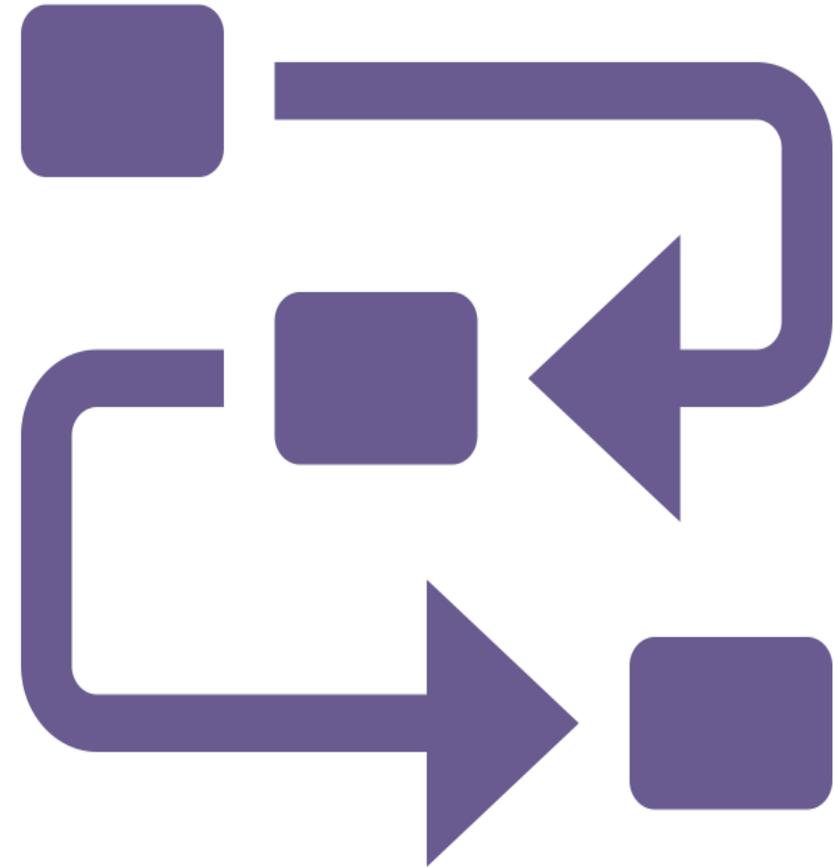
RESEARCH QUESTION:

How can public health units most effectively work with their communities to achieve community design that improves population health?



PROJECT METHODOLOGY IS BASED IN EXPLANATORY SEQUENTIAL DESIGN

- **Literature Review**
- **Survey** of all Ontario PHUs
- Nested case studies using **focus groups**
- Mapping of the planning process in Ontario using **key informant interviews**
- **Outcome:** evidence based resource(s) that can be used by Ontario public health units to support municipal planning and community design process.
- **Timelines:** Literature review, survey, focus groups and key informant interviews completed by March 31 2019



WHY BRING HEALTH EVIDENCE INTO COMMUNITY DESIGN PLANNING?

1

Enhance understanding of health implications of built environment decisions

2

Break down silos across sectors

3

Advocate and support a shift away from auto-oriented design

ARE PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS ENGAGING IN HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT (HBE) INTERVENTIONS?

Survey of all Health Units in Ontario

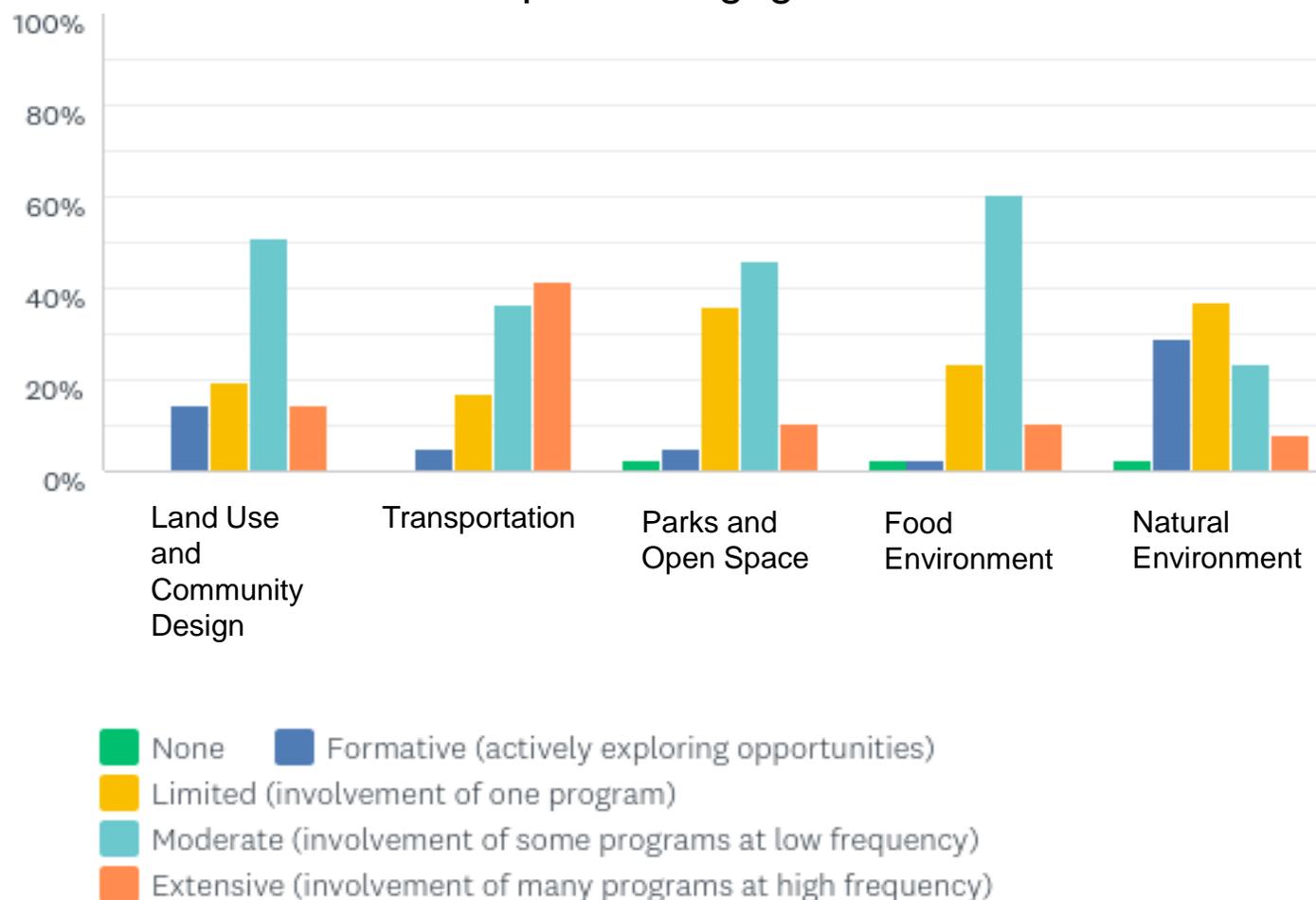
Goals:

- Assess the involvement of PHUs in Healthy Built Environment (HBE) interventions
- Identify promising practices for more in depth exploration

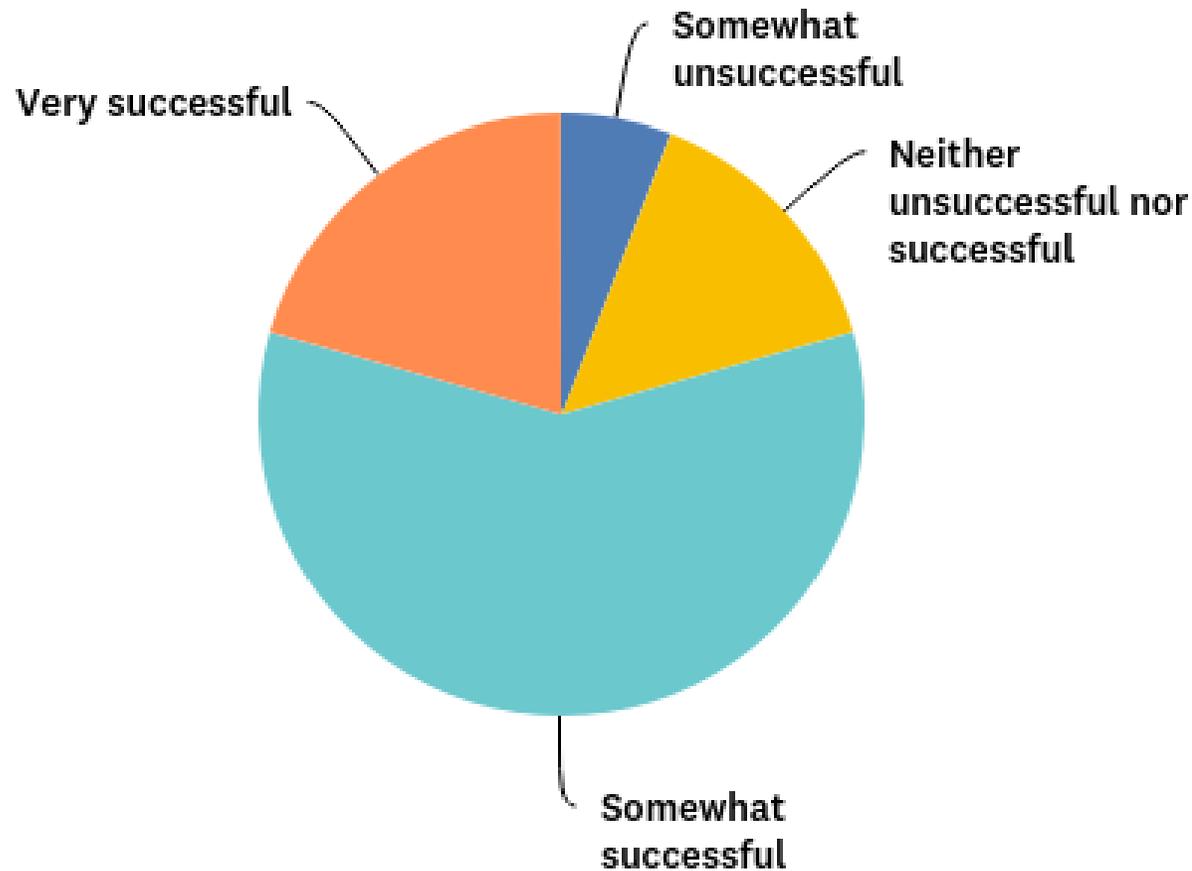
Successful survey:

- 91% response rate (n = 32 / 35)

Self-Reported Engagement Level



HOW ARE WE DOING?



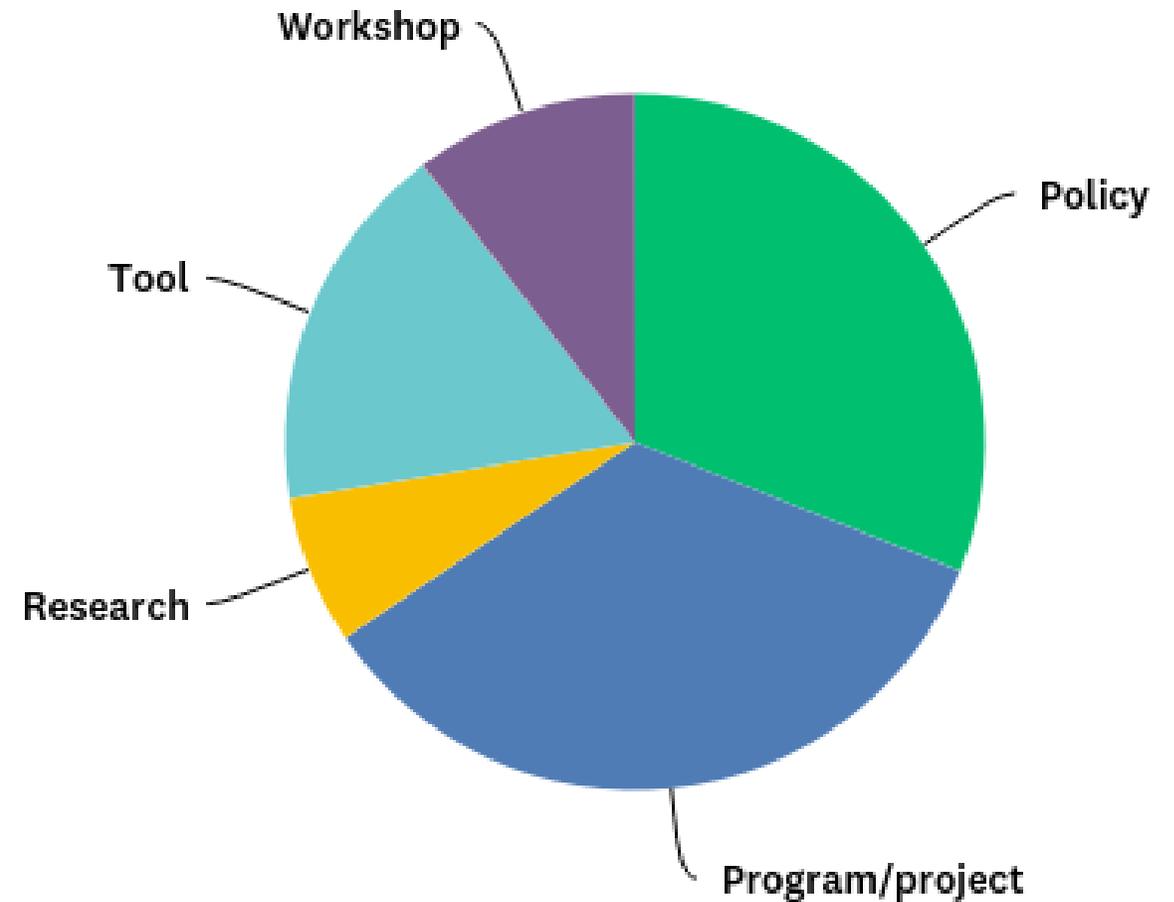
- Most Public Health Units report some degree of success with HBE interventions
- 80% report that they are somewhat or very successful with HBE interventions

WHAT ARE WE DOING WELL?

More than a third report “**providing evidence and a health lens**” to the creation of public policy

75% of respondents said there are **promising practices** in their PHU to support HBE interventions

What are these promising practices?



FOCUS GROUPS

Moving from the survey findings to a deeper, focused exploration of promising practices

Selection Criteria:

1. Survey responses on promising practices
2. Strong level of engagement
3. Diversity in geographic, demographic and governance characteristics



7 Public Health Units and Community Partners



“The method of identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns, known as themes, within data”
(Bruan & Clarke, 2006)

Enabler Themes

Collaboration

Knowledge

Stakeholder Endorsement

Barrier Themes

Complexity

Perception

Timing

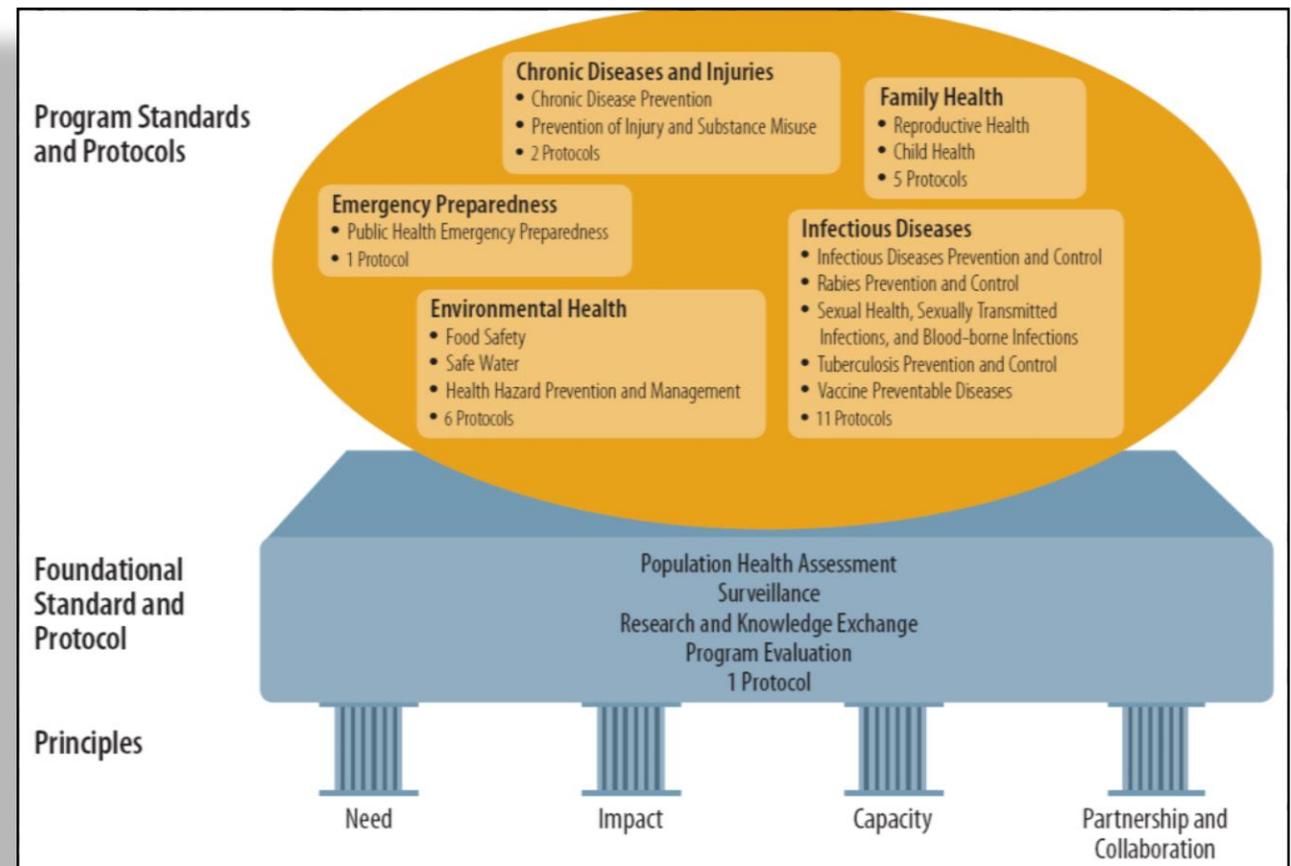
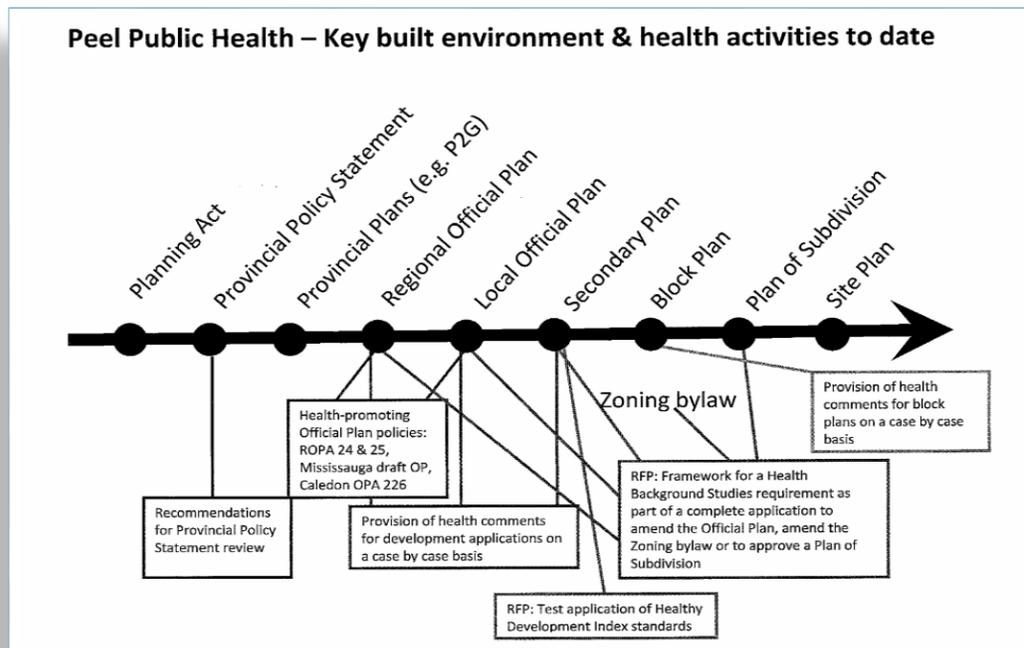
Competing priorities

Limited Resources

Silos

FOUR OVERARCHING THEMES

- The process of designing the built environment is siloed, which results in competing priorities.



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- Both internal and external collaboration is essential for built environment design.
- Achieving healthy built environments is complex - health units need increased understanding and resources to be involved.



FOUR OVERARCHING THEMES



- The process of designing the built environment is subject to competing priorities.
- Both internal and external collaboration is essential for successful design.
- Achieving healthy built environments is complex - health expertise and resources to be involved.
- Synthesized base of evidence needed to convince stakeholders of the “value-add” of public health – to be embedded in the design of built environment.

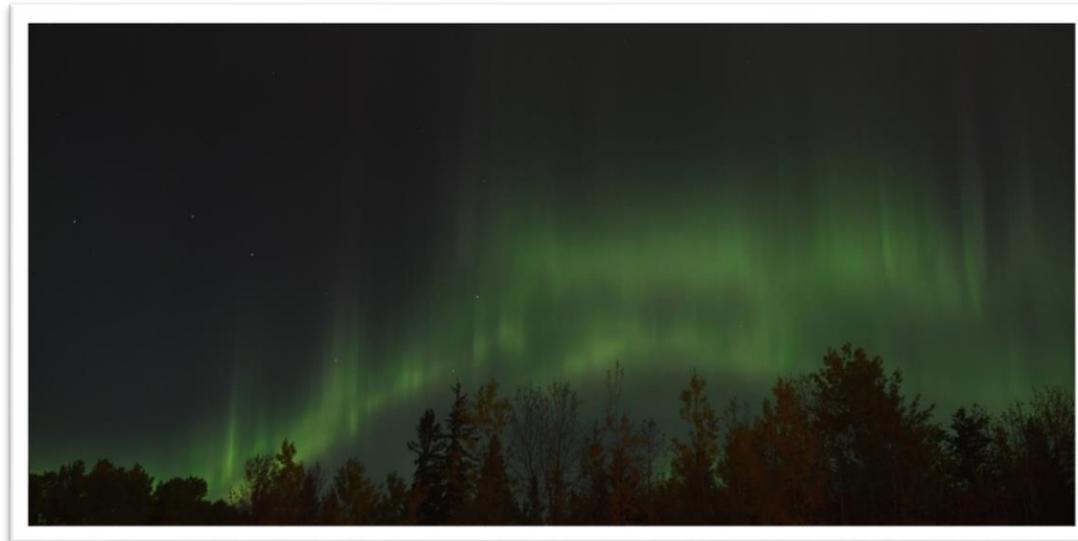
CASE STUDY: NORTHERN ONTARIO

Promising Practices

- Keep a pulse on the municipal agenda
- Develop personal relationships
- Utilize municipal elections to raise awareness
- Use the best available evidence

Advice to others

- Take initiative
- Connect with external stakeholders
- Prioritize
- Respect the Northern planners perspectives



“What are the opportunities for public health input within the municipal planning process in Ontario?”

Mapping the Municipal Planning Process in Ontario

- Key informant interviews with key ministry staff

Highlights:

- Limited opportunities for PH engagement within the provincial system
- Predominant opportunities exist at the local level
- Potential to engage MOHLTC in the One Window approach

NEXT STEPS?

- Utilize the findings of the research to develop a resource or tool to support PHUs
- Undertake knowledge translation activities to enhance public health capacity
- Presentation at upcoming conferences to share research findings (OPPI fall 2019?)
- Application of findings with the reorganization of public health in Ontario is now in question

