

What Your Levy Buy\$

OUR VISION

Healthy lives together.

OUR MISSION

We improve, promote, and protect the health and well-being of the population in the District of Thunder Bay by delivering high-quality public health programs and services with our partners.

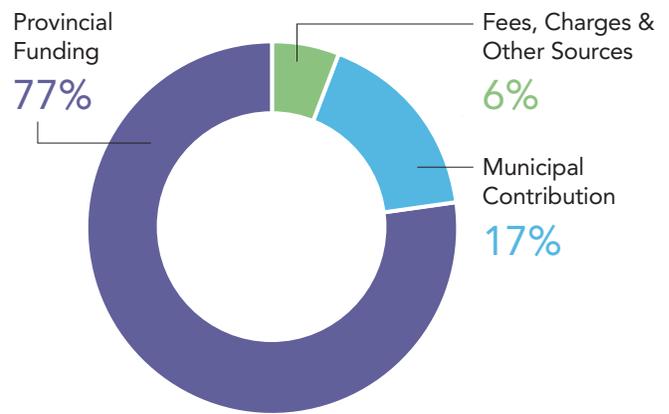
OUR MANDATE

The mandate of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit is legislated under the provincial Health Protection and Promotion Act. The primary focus of public health is the health and well-being of the whole population through the promotion and protection of health and the prevention of illness. Minimum requirements for the delivery of public health programming are set out in the Ontario Public Health Standards.

OUR 2024 BUDGET

The consolidated budget for public health services provided by the Health Unit within the District of Thunder Bay totals approximately \$21.46M. Of this total, 77% is funded by the Province of Ontario, approximately 17% or \$3.58M is funded through the municipal levy and 6% is derived from fees, charges, and other sources.

2024 REVENUE SOURCES



2024 EXPENDITURES

In 2024, each municipal taxpayer in the district will contribute \$30.46 towards the total cost of the services listed below.

Services Provided	(000s)
Healthy Growth and Development	\$ 6,704
Infectious Disease	5,713
Chronic Disease and Injury	5,192
Environmental Health	2,196
Corporate	1,420
Land Development	225
Emergency Preparedness	9
Total Consolidated Budget	\$ 21,459
Total Municipal Contribution	\$ 3,580
Per Capita Municipal Contribution	\$ 30.46

The remaining document contains an overview of public health services.

We work to improve, promote, and protect the health and well-being of the population in the District of Thunder Bay through the following foundational and program areas:

HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Oral health promotion, education and clinical preventive services for children from birth to age 17. School based dental screening and surveillance activities help facilitate access to the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program for eligible children with urgent dental needs.



- Healthy Babies Healthy Children programming to optimize healthy child development and reduce health inequities for pregnant individuals and families with children from birth to age six. Services are delivered in person including through home visiting, virtually, or by phone.
- Lactation services to support individuals and families in the TBDHU Lactation Clinic, in the community, or in their home.
- Family Health programming to provide education programs and support to parents before, during and after pregnancy to help them raise healthy, happy, and resilient children in safe environments.
- School based vision screening for all senior kindergarten students in eligible publicly funded schools including assistance with access to optometry services and prescription eyeglass programs, and community eye health promotion and education.

CHRONIC DISEASE, SUBSTANCE USE, AND INJURY PREVENTION

- Chronic Disease Prevention programming focused on schools, worksites, and community partners to provide health promotion activities and programs to build supportive environments and influence policies to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, healthy growth and development, and UV protection.
- Injury Prevention and Substance Use programming that works in collaboration with community partners to influence healthy policies and create supportive environments for health. The programs provide activities to address alcohol and other substance use issues, road and off-road vehicle safety, prevention of concussions and falls, and mental health promotion.
- Tobacco, vapour, and smoke programming that works in collaboration with community partners to provide prevention, education, and training through youth engagement, cessation, and enforcement alongside policy development activities.
- School Health programming focused on engaging students, parents, teachers, school boards, and community partners to create supportive school climates and improve student health and well-being. School boards are supported to develop policies and deliver health related topics including nutrition, physical activity, personal safety and injury prevention, substance use prevention, healthy growth and development, mental health, and violence and bullying prevention.

- Harm Reduction programming that works with the public, clients, and other partners to reduce the potential harms from substance use by distributing harm reduction supplies and naloxone. Programming also includes community opioid response activities and conducting surveillance to identify and track risks posed by opioid use including overdoses, and communicates this information to health system partners and community partners.

INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Case and contact management for Diseases of Public Health Significance including the detection and management of respiratory and gastrointestinal outbreaks. Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) inspections, education, support and follow-up on IPAC concerns and lapses within licensed childcare and Personal Service Settings. Communication of findings of surveillance and epidemiological analysis of infectious disease trends and priority populations to key partners.
- Support, education, delivery, and observation of anti-tuberculosis treatment regimens to both active and latent cases of Tuberculosis, as well as intake and follow-up of all Immigration Medical Surveillance clients referred by Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada.
- Risk assessment and response for all potential rabies exposures, including animal and vaccine management and the distribution of post-exposure vaccine if required.
- Testing, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted and blood borne infections while promoting healthy sexuality and safer sexual practices for priority populations. Education and access to contraception options are also provided.
- Provision of mobile public health services for equity deserving populations including those who are homeless/under-housed or using substances, such as infectious disease testing and management, immunization, health screening and harm reduction services.

IMMUNIZATION

- Immunization services and clinics, provision of specialized services to improve vaccine access. Distribution of publicly funded vaccines to health care providers.
- Ongoing review and maintenance of immunization records for all school pupils and children in childcare.
- Education and promotion of vaccine safety and efficacy to improve vaccine confidence. Key partner engagement to improve vaccine uptake and respond quickly to emerging community vaccination needs.



FOOD SAFETY

- Education to ensure safe food handling, inspections of food premises, and investigations into food-borne illnesses.

SAFE WATER

- Monitoring public and private water sources and ensuring water meets high standards for both drinking and recreational use.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

- Health hazard risk assessment, prevention, and management to inspect facilities and respond to reports of health hazards in the built and natural environment.
- Vector borne disease surveillance programming to assess the risk of infection of West Nile virus and tick-borne diseases.

LAND DEVELOPMENT

- Review, inspection, and approval of all properties that are developed or planned to be serviced with in-ground sewage treatment systems.

POPULATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT

- Measurement, monitoring, analysis, and interpretation of population health data to inform the development of programs and services in alignment with the identified needs of local and priority populations.
- Epidemiological surveillance for the ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of health-related information; the communication of surveillance data including risks to relevant partners.

HEALTH EQUITY

- Applying a health equity lens across all programs and services with the goal of decreasing health inequities across the District of Thunder Bay so that everyone has equal opportunities to achieve their full health potential regardless of social or economic circumstances.
- Respectful engagement with Indigenous communities, organizations, and First Nations to strengthen public health services.



EFFECTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

- Research, planning, evaluation, performance measurement, and quality improvement support for all programs and services. The development and maintenance of organizational infrastructure to support evidence-informed programs and services.
- Effective, accessible, and inclusive communication practices to support all programs and services; monitoring and improvement processes to support excellent client service standards; accountability reporting on public health programs and services.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Consistent and effective response to public health emergencies and emergencies with public health impacts. A 24/7 on-call system to support emergencies, health hazards, and infectious disease/outbreak follow up.

CORPORATE EXPENDITURES

- Costs for the governance of the Health Unit, facility maintenance, computer equipment, and communication for all Health Unit sites.