



**CIPP
IPPM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3rd, 2020

**DATA SHOWS MAJORITY OF ONTARIANS BELIEVE PUBLIC HEALTH MERGERS ARE NOT THE
SOLUTION**

OTTAWA, ONT., February 3rd, 2020 – A recent poll conducted by Environics Analytics found that nearly 2/3 of Ontarians disagree with the provincial government's plan to merge 35 public health units into 10.

“Our members at Ottawa Public Health (OPH) deliver services that keep our community safe and healthy,” said Jamie Dunn, Executive Director of The Civic Institute of Professional Personnel (CIPP). “The proposed merger of OPH with the surrounding areas will negatively impact the ability to deliver these services,” he said.

CIPP has represented public health professionals in Ottawa for over 66 years and its members are worried about the impact these proposed mergers and cuts will have on our community. Their opposition to these mergers and cuts is also shared by Ottawa's City council, who passed a motion on September 25, 2019 directing the Mayor to ask the Minister of Health to maintain the relationship between Ottawa Public Health and the City of Ottawa.

In Ottawa's case, removing OPH from the city structure and merging it with other health units could come at a very large cost as the City provides OPH with \$8M worth of in-kind contributions such as Human Resources, IT, and Administrative services. The loss of these savings could mean more cuts in the future. The survey showed that 80 per cent of Eastern Ontario residents oppose cuts to public health.

These mergers will only cost the provincial government more money down the road. Studies show that every \$1 spent on public health saves \$14 in further health cost. The survey showed that 72 per cent of Ontarians, including 51 per cent of those who identified as Conservative voters, disagree with cutting funding for public health. “Funding a strong public health system tailored to local needs will keep residents healthy and in turn out of hospitals, emergency rooms, and ambulances,” said Dunn.

Ottawa's management of its public health services is working. Cooperation and collaboration among public health units and the Province can be accomplished without costly and disrupting forced mergers. For more information visit **Thrivingtogether.ca**.