



August 26, 2022

***Dr Michael Sherar
President and CEO, Public Health Ontario***

Dear Dr Sherar,

At a meeting on August 18th, 2022, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table (the “Science Table”) was told by Public Health Ontario (PHO) that the Science Table and its working groups would be dissolved as of September 6, 2022. As the Science Table winds down in the coming weeks we will aim to complete our existing work.

Two things have enabled the Science Table and its working groups to serve the government and the people of Ontario during the pandemic. First, the Science Table's work reflects the remarkable dedication of the hundreds of volunteer scientists, physicians and administrators who devoted their time to the effort. No less importantly, the government supported three principles of scientific independence in our original mandate:

- to identify and study *any* scientific question that our members felt would help Ontario fight COVID-19,
- to pursue those investigations wherever the science led us, and
- to communicate publicly and openly about the results of our investigations.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served Ontario since July of 2020. Many of us will remember our work for the Science Table as some of the most important work we have ever had the chance to do. We count ourselves lucky to have done so in partnership with 15 million Ontarians who care so deeply about their communities, and with the many health professionals, public servants and cabinet members who have so often had the courage to make difficult choices.

Dissolution of the Ontario Science Table - Statement from Members

Along the way, we were also reminded of key principles that will help Ontario manage the continued dangers of COVID-19 and other public health crises. Among those lessons, we would offer the following for your consideration:

- Science matters
- Equity counts
- Transparency is critical
- Independence must be both perceived and delivered
- Timeliness and relevance are essential

The COVID-19 pandemic continues, and it contributes to Ontario's growing number of health system crises. Each of us on the Science Table has a contribution to make in the effort to secure Ontario's health, and we will now return fully to that work.

Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table