

# BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS



## 2022

### DR. LAWRENCE LOH, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR PEEL REGION

**Award: Board Award**

**Achievement: Providing Leadership to Support the Vulnerable During the Pandemic**

Dr. Lawrence Loh, the medical officer of health (MOH) for Peel Region, provided pandemic leadership to both healthcare workers and the community at a time of confusion about COVID-19. In Peel, he became the face and the voice of the fight against the virus and earned the trust of both care professionals and the public.

*“I personally felt I could trust in his approach and leadership on how to appropriately respond in best caring for our patients”* wrote his nominator. *“I believe he provided very strong direction for Peel Public Health, who was able to do its best in prioritizing what needed to be addressed during the pandemic.”*



With his guidance the region adopted a community model of dealing with the pandemic with local solutions tailored to the various demographic and ethnic groups who call Peel home, addressing the needs of different family models and residents who spoke a variety of languages. Peel Public Health put out data metrics on age, location and other demographic data that steered planning during the pandemic, making it possible for providers to know their communities better.

Dr. Loh also created a feeling among healthcare workers that everyone was in this together, so it was clear to family health teams and other healthcare professionals that Peel Public Health was behind them. In addition, the relationships forged between providers and Peel Public Health should stand the region in good stead post-pandemic.

*“Our team was supported by members of Peel Public Health, and I was able to reach out to the leadership office to help me steer through difficult scenarios we experienced in our COVID assessment centre,”* noted his nominator. *“Lawrence’s leadership style felt calming, reassuring and I could tell his decisions were based on scientific data. It showed that by continuing to do*

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*the right thing in the face of so many unknowns, we can achieve positive results for our residents.”*

With his move to become the new CEO and Executive Director of the College of Family Physicians of Canada, Dr. Loh will be able to use his strong leadership skills to advance the vision of team-based care for all through the vision of the Patient Medical Home.

**Key Facts:**

- Provided strong healthcare leadership during the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Earned trust of both healthcare workers and public
- Offered local solutions tailored to Peel Region’s demographic and ethnic groups
- Made evidence-based decisions using scientific data