

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health
277 Victoria Street
5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1W2

Tel: 416 338-7820
Fax: 416 392-0713
dmckeown@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/health

To: All Division Heads
All Agencies, Boards and Commissions

From: Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health

Date: September 24, 2010

Subject: Shade Guidelines

The report *Shade Guidelines for the City of Toronto* was approved by the Board of Health on August 20, 2010. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage your organization to implement the Shade Guidelines in your facility design and development plans in order to provide safer and more comfortable environments for users.

As you know, solar radiation and more particularly, the ultraviolet portion of solar radiation is a human carcinogen for skin cancer. The provision of shade in City-owned and operated outdoor venues, particularly where children are in attendance, is an important measure for the primary prevention of skin cancer and its associated health and economic burden. The guidelines contain recommendations and principles for increasing shade at eleven types of facilities operated by the City of Toronto that are used primarily during the summer when direct UVR levels are at their highest, when high levels of indirect UVR reflect from surfaces and when users typically wear minimal clothing.

The *Shade Guidelines* have been created by the Shade Policy Committee of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition in collaboration with Parks, Forestry and Recreation and with the support of Toronto Public Health, as directed by the Board of Health and City Council. The *Shade Guidelines* are intended to complement the 2007 Board of Health approved *Shade Policy for the City of Toronto* and to assist all City agencies, boards, commissions and divisions (ABCDs) to provide UVR protection and sun safety measures for their outdoor environments. The guidelines are posted at http://www.toronto.ca/health/resources/tcp/shade_guidelines.htm.

I trust your department will find the information provided in the *Shade Guidelines* useful in assisting with shade enhancement and that you will share your experience on the feedback form enclosed in the guidelines.

Please contact Safoura Moazami at smoazami@toronto.ca or 416-392-7469, if you have any questions. I look forward to a continued and fruitful partnership toward cancer prevention and health promotion in Toronto.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. McKeown".

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health

Encl.