

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

Minutes of the Board of Health

Meeting No. 12

Tuesday, October 13, 1998.

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, October 13, 1998, in Committee Room C, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor John Filion, Chair
Councillor Gerry Altobello
Councillor Anne Johnston
Councillor Irene Jones
Councillor Joan King
Councillor Joe Mihevc
Councillor Michael Prue
Elca Rennick

Observers: Gerri Gershon, Toronto District School Board

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Elca Rennick, the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on September 15, 1998 were confirmed.

132. Cyclospora Outbreak in Spring 1998

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 1, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) The Ontario Minister of Health make cyclosporiasis a reportable disease in Ontario;
- (2) the Federal Minister of Health make cyclosporiasis a reportable disease in Canada and put in place mechanisms for active surveillance of important foodborne diseases such as cyclosporiasis;

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- (3) the Ontario Minister of Health recommend that laboratories in Ontario routinely test for cyclospora oocysts in stool specimens submitted for ova and parasites;
- (4) Toronto Public Health continue to increase awareness and knowledge about foodborne illnesses by providing relevant and timely information to health care providers and the public;
- (5) Health Canada, in conjunction with Agriculture and AgriFood Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), conduct further basic and applied research on the biology and epidemiology of cyclospora, e.g. mechanisms by which contamination occurs, effectiveness of control measures during high produce production periods;
- (6) Health Canada and the CFIA develop a coordinated approach to the development of policies regarding importation of fresh produce which includes:
 - (a) a more vigilant and rigorous approach, erring on the side of public health and safety;
 - (b) comprehensive risk assessment, including review of relevant international epidemiological data and studies conducted by other health agencies; and
 - (c) work in partnership with the U.S. as appropriate;
- (7) Toronto Public Health continue to actively participate in discussions re the spring 1999 policy for Guatemalan raspberry importation, and take the position that there should be a restriction on these imports until:
 - (a) further information is available from Guatemala on the farm tracebacks from the 1996, 1997 and 1998 outbreaks;
 - (b) more is known about the mechanism of contamination with cyclospora; and
 - (c) there is independent audit evidence of compliance by individual farm with the Model Plan of Excellence (MPE);
- (8) the Board of Health express support for and interest in participation in the development of a coordinated and coherent foodborne outbreak investigation protocol at the federal level by Health Canada, AAFC and the CFIA, in consultation with health and agricultural authorities at the provincial and municipal levels;

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- (9) CFIA ensure that their inspectors receive training in doing comprehensive food traceback investigations as per the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) protocol;
- (10) the Ontario Minister of Health provide increased funding for the Public Health Branch to provide strong support and coordination in multi-regional and province-wide outbreaks;
- (11) the Ontario Minister of Health provide continued funding for the Central Public Health Laboratory to enhance research and investigative abilities re foodborne pathogens and provide opportunities to liaise with international counterparts;
- (12) the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs invite a municipal public health representative to join the newly-formed Steering Committee to develop a Food Safety Strategy for Ontario;
- (13) Health Canada and the CFIA amend federal health protection legislation with respect to potential foodborne illnesses to permit them to take health protective actions based on “reasonable and probable grounds” and afford protection from personal liability for any act “done in good faith” (i.e. similar to the Ontario Health Protection & Promotion Act);
- (14) Health Canada, in consultation with the CFIA, conduct an investigation to establish the mode of cyclospora contamination in raspberries;
- (15) the CFIA examine the feasibility of requiring the implementation of preventive and control measures such as those contained in the MPE to all imported and domestically grown produce (based on the fact that such measures are not specific to raspberries or cyclospora and would contribute to the overall minimization of the risk of contamination of other food-borne pathogens);
- (16) the CFIA consult with stakeholders including the general public, and health and environment agencies at the local, provincial and federal level to develop the position paper on the development of a Code of Practice for the production, harvesting and packaging of fresh fruits and vegetables for the CODEX Alimentarius Commission;
- (17) the Medical Officer of Health review the health and environmental impacts of available food treatment technologies and assess their effectiveness in eliminating foodborne pathogens;
- (18) the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood and the provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs amend the Canadian Agricultural

Products Act, the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act, and the Ontario Farm Products Grade and Sales Act regarding country of origin labelling for all fresh and cooked fruits and vegetables sold at wholesale, retail or in clerk-served operations to ensure consumers can always acquire information about the origins of the food they are consuming. In making these amendments, the federal and provincial ministers should ensure that their respective amendments cover all possible purchasing scenarios; and

- (19) the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood and the provincial Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs increase the number of staff available to do enforcement work, particularly concerning country-of-origin labelling at retail to the public.

The Board of Health also had before it a Press Release from the Embassy of Guatemala

Dr. Jaffe gave a presentation to the Board on this report.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health adopted the report (October 1, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health subject to the addition of the following recommendation:

“(20) The Canadian Food Inspection Agency be requested not to allow Guatemalan raspberries to be brought into Canada until they have been shown to be contamination-free.”

(Ontario Minister of Health, Federal Minister of Health, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - (signed by Chair))

133. Issues Related to the 1999 Budget

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 9, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that this report be received for information.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (October 9, 1998) from the Secretary, Board of Health Budget Subcommittee respecting Public Health Site Rationalization, recommending that the report (October 7, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health which recommends that further work by public health staff on site rationalization and staff relocations be completed in concert with corporate initiatives currently underway.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a presentation on this report.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health:

1. Received for information the report (October 9, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting Issues Related to the 1999 Budget Supplementary Report;
2. adopted the report (October 7, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health and in so doing directed that further work by public health staff on site rationalization and staff relocations be completed in concert with corporate initiatives currently underway;
3. requested the Budget Committee and the Commissioner of Corporate Services to give high priority to site rationalization because of the potential cost saving benefits inherent therein.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Board of Health:

4. requested the Medical Officer of Health to report, in consultation with appropriate City officials, to the Board of Health on:
 - (a) whether funds exist in contingency account to meet the needs of the community in the event of extreme cold and/or the occurrence of an ice storm such as that which hit parts of Ontario and Quebec last winter;
 - (b) whether emergency response plans are adequate to meet these needs.

(Budget Committee, Commissioner of Corporate Services, Medical Officer of Health; cc: Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - October 16 & 19, 1998)

134. Aids Prevention Program Update and Status of Provincial Funding

The Board of Health had before it a report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending:

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- (1) That the Board of Health advocate to the Minister of Health to establish funding for condom distribution and education through AIDS service organizations, health units and other organizations with significant HIV prevention programs throughout Ontario;
- (2) that the Board of Health advocate to the Minister of Health to maintain on-going 100 percent funding at the current level for the AIDS Sexual Health InfoLine (AIDS Hotline);
- (3) that the Board of Health advocate to the Minister of Health to establish on-going 100 percent funding at the current level for the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada and Planned Parenthood Ontario; and
- (4) that the Board of Health request the Minister of Health to re-affirm the Province's long-term commitment to funding for community-based HIV prevention programs and services, including its newly established funding for the emerging issue of injection drug use as an AIDS risk behaviour; and further to integrate needle-exchange into the new injection drug use projects.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health adopted the report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health subject to the addition of the following recommendation:

- “(5) that the Medical Officer of Health and the Chair of the Board of Health meet with the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and urge him to support the continuance of these programs, and that the Medical Officer of Health report back to the Board on the outcome of this meeting.”

(Medical Officer of Health - October 16, 1998)

135. Proposed Federal Tobacco Legislation: the Tobacco Industry Responsibility Act (Bill S-13)

The Board of Health had before it a report (September 25, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending:

- (1) That the Board of Health endorse Bill S-13, The Tobacco Industry Responsibility Act and express its support to Senator Colin Kenny, sponsor of the Bill, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Finance, all members of Parliament for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), and all members of the Commons Standing Committee on Health;

- (2) that the Medical Officer of Health submit a brief on the proposed Federal Tobacco Legislation (Bill S-13) on behalf of the Toronto Board of Health to the Standing Committee on Health; and
- (3) that the Board of Health forward this report and its recommendations to all Boards of Health in Ontario, recommending that they support The Tobacco Industry Responsibility Act.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health adopted the report (September 29, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Senator Colin Kenny, Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Health (Federal), Minister of Finance (Federal), All Federal MPs for the GTA, All Members of the Commons Standing Committee on Health (signed by Chair))

(All Boards of Health in Ontario, Medical Officer of Health - October 19, 1998)

136. Domestic Pet Public Education Programs

The Board of Health had before it a report (September 29, 1998) Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) The Board of Health receive this report for information; and
- (2) Toronto Animal Services continue to provide the current level of service with respect to domestic pet public education programs pending a review and resolution of related amalgamation issues.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the report (September 29, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Medical Officer of Health - October 19, 1998)

137. Reinvestment of Animal Licensing and Registration Fees

The Board of Health had before it a report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

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- (1) Toronto Animal Services continue to provide the current level of service with respect to reinvestment of animal licensing and registration fees pending a review and resolution of related amalgamation issues;
- (2) the Board of Health recommend to Budget Committee that current licensing revenues continue to be utilized to defray operating expenses; and
- (3) any additional licensing and registration revenues be used to fund proactive program initiatives, subject to the review and resolution of these and other amalgamation-related issues.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health and in so doing:

- (1) Directed Toronto Animal Services to continue to provide the current level of service with respect to reinvestment of animal licensing and registration fees pending a review and resolution of related amalgamation issues;
- (2) recommended to the Budget Committee that current licensing revenues continue to be utilized to defray operating expenses; and
- (3) any additional licensing and registration revenues be used to fund retroactive program initiatives, subject to the review and resolution of these and other amalgamation-related issues.

(Budget Committee; cc: Medical Officer of Health - October 19, 1998)

138. Toronto Roundtable on Prostitution Involving Children and Youth

The Board of Health had before it a report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending:

- (1) That the Board of Health receive the report "Toronto Roundtable on Prostitution Involving Children and Youth" for information ;
- (2) that this report be referred for information to the Child Advocate and to the Task Force on Community Safety; and
- (3) that the following recommendation regarding business licencing be referred to the Commissioner of Urban Planning & Development for consideration during the harmonization of licensing by-laws.

“that Toronto City Council consider making changes to Metro licensing by-laws to eliminate the practice of involving children and youth in prostitution in settings such as massage parlours, escort services, bath houses, and adult entertainment establishments.”

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health:

- (1) Received, for information, the report “Toronto Roundtable on Prostitution Involving Children and Youth” appended to the report (September 28, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health and forwarded a copy to the Children and Youth Advocate and to the Task Force on Community Safety for information; and

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health:

- (2) referred the following recommendation regarding business licencing to the Commissioner of Urban Planning & Development for consideration during the harmonization of licensing by-laws.

“That Toronto City Council ensure that Municipal Licensing By-laws prohibit the practice of involving children and youth in prostitution in settings such as massage parlours, escort services, bath houses, and adult entertainment establishments.”

(Children and Youth Advocate, Task Force on Community Safety, Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development; cc: Medical Officer of Health - October 16, 1998)

139. Public Health Grants

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 9, 1998) from the Secretary, Board of Health Budget Subcommittee recommending that the Board of Health request the Municipal Grants Review Committee to give consideration to the following options in their budget process:

- (1) maintain the AIDS Prevention Grants budget at its current level of \$1,052,800.00 and Drug Abuse Prevention at \$500,000.00 for the former City of Toronto;
- (2) provide a one-time fiscal adjustment for the AIDS Prevention Grants budget of \$526,404.00 to bring the program into calendar year alignment used by all other City grants; and

- (3) increase the AIDS Prevention Grants budget by \$550,000.00 and the Drug Abuse Prevention Grants budget by \$1,000,000.00 to support programming and services in Etobicoke, York, North York, East York and Scarborough districts.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (October 7, 1998) from the Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto advising that it strongly approves the recommendations accepted by the Board of health September 15, 1998 respecting levelling up of other municipal grant programs and advising that the AIDS and Drugs Abuse Prevention grants are important public health initiatives.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health:

1. Adopted the report (October 9, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.
2. Supported in principle the following recommendation and requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health's next meeting thereon:

“Whereas it is desirable that public health grants and policies are reviewed by the same governing body;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Health recommend that Public Health grants continue to be administered by the Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit.”

(Municipal Grants Review Committee, Medical Officer of Health - October 19, 1998)

140. Sulphur In Fuels - Toronto's Fuel Purchase Program

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 9, 1998) from the Commissioner of Corporate Services, the Medical Officer of Health and the Director and Fleet Management Services recommending that:

1. City Council request that the Province eliminate the Provincial Fuel Tax from on-road diesel fuel when it is used in off-road vehicles to encourage its use for that purpose;
2. the City purchase on-road diesel fuel for its off-road vehicles if the Province eliminates the Provincial Fuel Tax for that purpose; and

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3. when making bulk purchases of gasoline, on-road diesel fuel and off-road diesel fuel, the City should consider sulphur content, as well as a selection criteria.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (October 9, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that Council, at its meeting on October 1, 1998, referred a motion to the Board of Health for consideration, which recommends that Council adoption Recommendation Nos (3) and (5) of the Environmental Task Force report (July 29, 1998) as follows:

- “(3) City Council establish a high level delegation of Councillors and appropriate staff, including the Mayor, if possible, to make representations at both the federal and provincial levels; and
- (5) the City Clerk forward a copy of the report (July 13, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.”

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health:

1. recommended the adoption of the report (October 9, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health, and forwarded the Board’s action in this respect to the Corporate Services Committee for transmission to City Council.
2. recommended to Council the adoption of the following Motion of Councillor Chow:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council adopt Recommendation Nos . (3) and (5) of the Environmental Task Force report (July 29, 1998), as follows:

- (3) City Council establish a high level delegation of Councillors and appropriate staff, including the Mayor, if possible, to make representations at both the federal and provincial levels; and
- (5) the City Clerk forward a copy of the report (July 13, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health and a copy of Council’s decision, to all Provincial and Federal Ministers.”

(Corporate Services Committee; cc: Medical Officer of Health - October 19, 1998)

(Report No. 12, Clause No. 1)

141. 2008 Olympics

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to prepare to review the public health implications should the City of Toronto be awarded the 2008 Olympics and report to the Board of Health at the appropriate time.

(Medical Officer of Health; cc: Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - October 19, 1998)

142. Housing Crisis for People Without Homes

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health (or appropriate staff) to give a verbal update at the Board's next meeting on the initiatives being examined to handle the housing crisis facing the homeless and identify any health issues inherent therein and comment on the recently announced concept of providing shelter to the homeless in the form of tents.

(Medical Officer of Health; cc: Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - October 19, 1998)

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Chair.