

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

Minutes of the Board of Health

Meeting No. 13

Tuesday, November 10, 1998.

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, November 10, 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
Robert Davies

Observers: Gerri Gershon, Toronto District School Board

Councillor Jones assumed the chair.

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health amended Minute No. 135 of the minutes of its meeting of October 13, 1998 by amending Recommendation (3) therein by adding the words "and other large Boards in Canada" after the words "all Boards of Health in Ontario", so as to read:

"135. (3) that the Board of Health forward this report and its recommendations to all Boards of Health in Ontario and other large Boards of Health in Canada, recommending that they support The Tobacco Industry Responsibility Act."

Councillor Filion resumed the chair.

143. Public Health Grants - 1999 Governance

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that the Board of Health assume overall governance of Public Health Grants programs, as follows:

- (a) The Board of Health, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health in January, 1999, will appoint the members of the 1999 AIDS Prevention and Drug Abuse Prevention Review Panels. The Review Panels shall include City Council members, Board of Health members, informed citizens, and, in the case of AIDS Prevention, people living with HIV or AIDS;
- (b) the Medical Officer of Health will promote the 1999 Public Health Grants program, make applications available to groups, and prepare a staff report for the AIDS Prevention and Drug Abuse Prevention Review Panels;
- (c) Review Panels will review all applications, make recommendations, hear appeals from applicants, and make a final report to the Board of Health; and
- (d) the Board of Health will approve the recommendations of the Review Panels and forward those recommendations to City Council.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Medical Officer of Health - November 16, 1998)

144. Interim Arrangements for the Provisions of Animal Sheltering and Related Services for Wards 19 to 26

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that the Chief Administrative Officer and the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to extend the existing contract to December 31, 1999, between the Toronto Humane Society and the City of Toronto for animal sheltering services for Wards 19 - 26, upon the same terms and conditions, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Board of Health recommended to City Council the adoption of the report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Report No. 13, Clause 2)

145. Budget Update - Corporate Pressures and Process

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 6, 1998) from the Secretary, Budget Subcommittee of the Board of Health forwarding the report (November 5, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health and recommending that it be received for information.

The Board of Health also had before it the following:

- report (November 9, 1998) from the Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto advising that it adopted the following Motion proposed by Cathy Kozma:

“The Northern Health Area Community Health Board recognizes the ongoing budget pressures that the City of Toronto is facing, however, it is not possible to support a proposed budget reduction ranging from 10-20%.

1. A reduction in front line services will impact on the public health of the citizens of Toronto;
2. A 6.5% proposed cut assigned in 1997 was not considered of merit and should not be imposed in 1998;
3. Service harmonization options previously identified have not yet been implemented;
 - (a) the control of tuberculosis is exceptionally important related to the homeless and underhoused;
 - (b) the needle exchange program is necessary to prevent HIV/AIDS as well as other communicable disease transmission;
 - (c) dental services are important to the health of seniors and children;
 - (d) the recommendations of the September 15, 1998 Board of Health related to the AIDS and Drug Abuse Prevention Grants of \$1,500,000 continue to be supported to enable service delivery on a community basis;

4. That the three recommendations highlighted in the November 7, 1998 Community Safety conference related to Substance Abuse be considered by the Board of Health inclusive of alcohol and over the counter medication;
5. Food access grants be prioritized to children in schools to increase the capacity for optimal learning;
6. Food safety related to inspection of restaurants must be adequately maintained related to the number of people entering the core of the City.”

The Board of Health received the report (November 6, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health for information.

(Medical Officer of Health - November 16, 1998)

146. The Public Health Response to Homelessness

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 5, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) The Board of Health endorse Council’s position on homelessness as a national disaster.
- (2) Public Health provide enhanced support through reallocation to deal with the emergency needs for this winter, especially related to Cold Weather Alerts, Young Parents With No Fixed Address and support to workers in agencies who deal with high risk groups.
- (3) Public Health continue working with the Coroner’s Office to create a registry to track deaths among the homeless.
- (4) Public Health ensure that any requests for future funding, such as, food access, tuberculosis control, dental services, mental health and needle exchange programs include adequate provisions for homeless and underhoused persons.
- (5) Public Health work with the school boards to identify collaborative strategies to assist students from homeless and underhoused families.
- (6) The Board of Health request the Minister of Health to increase the funding to the Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) so that they are better able

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to meet the specific needs of their service communities, particularly in the area of mental health service co-ordination.

- (7) The Board of Health request the Ministry of Health to implement its plans and funding for mental health reform immediately.
- (8) The Medical Officer of Health explore the possibility of dollars from emergency hostel monies being directed to help prevent homelessness and underhousing; and
- (9) The Board of Health call on the Ministry of Health to fund Public Health Units across the province to address homelessness as an urgent health issue.

The Board of Health also had before it the following reports/communications:

- (October 15, 1998) from Cathy Crowe, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee requesting endorsement of the report (October, 1998), titled "Proposal for Emergency Relief Strategy for the City of Toronto", which outlines strategies for relief efforts to:
 - provide immediate respite and safety for homeless people; and
 - to prevent further threats to homeless people's physical and mental health; and
- A copy of the Booklet (October 1998) from the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, titled "State of Emergency Declaration: An Urgent Call for Emergency Humanitarian Relief & Prevention Measures" distributed to Members of the Board of Health only and is on file in the City Clerk's Division.
- (November 9, 1998) from the Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto advising that it adopted the following Motion proposed by Anne Marie Keogh:
 - “(a) That the Northern Health Area Community Health Board supports the Recommendations 1-9 as listed in the November 5, 1998 report.
 - (b) That in addition, another recommendation be added to the report requesting that the Board of Health approach the Provincial Medical Officer of Health to ensure that the issues of mental health, violence, and substance abuse as related to the homeless and underhoused be included in the provincial mandatory health guidelines”.

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- (November 3, 1998) from Cathy Crowe, RN, Queen West Community Health Centre, on behalf of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- (November 10, 1998) from Cathy Crowe, RN, Queen West Community Health Centre, on behalf of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, submitting a list of recommendations
- (November 10, 1998) from Catherine Spence
- (November 10, 1998) from Barbara Craig, RN, Street Health
- (November 10, 1998) from Ase Hallgren, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee

The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Cathy Crowe, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- Dennis Flaherty
- Don Weitz
- Lee Zaslofsky
- Dr. Joel Lexchin
- Dr. Catherine Spence
- Brent Patterson, The Community AIDS Treatment & Information Exchange
- Beric German, Outreach Worker, AIDS Program, Street Health Community Nursing Foundation
- Sharole Gabriel
- Shirley Farlinger, United Nations Association in Canada
- Dr. Bob Frankford, Seaton House
- Bonnie Benedik
- Hazel Jackson, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- Ase Hallgren, Toronto Disaster Relief Committee
- Maurice Adongo, Mental Health Program, Street Health Community Nursing Foundation
- Barbara Craig, RN, Street Health Community Nursing Foundation
- Ann Fitzpatrick, Children's Aid of Toronto
- Kolin Davidson
- Bonnie Briggs

On motion by Councillor Mihvec, the Board of Health:

- (1) adopted the report (November 5, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health;

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- (2) requested the Medical Officer of Health to consider written and verbal comments presented to the Board for inclusion into an appropriate action strategy;
- (3) requested the Medical Officer of Health to examine modifying the -15 degrees Celsius prerequisite for calling a Cold Weather Emergency Alert;
- (4) urged the Federal and Provincial Governments to reinvest in affordable housing; and
- (5) requested the Chief Administrative Officer to report to Council on the provision of emergency funding to support public health initiatives and expansion of shelter services for the homeless

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health:

- (6) requested the Medical Officer of Health to urgently request that Moss Park Armoury be opened;

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Board of Health:

- (7) requested the Mayor to consider invoking the provisions of the Emergency Planning By-law for the purpose of allocating resources, including staff, to respond to the homelessness issue; and
- (8) requested the Public Health Division to take a proactive role in communicating to the public and media the nature and scope of this issue; and

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health, in view of the pending inclement weather forecasted for this evening, also requested the Medical Officer of Health to immediately begin to explore the possibility of opening the Moss Park Armoury or another suitable building that night (November 10, 1998) to house the homeless and advise the Board of Health during the course of its meeting as to the outcome of her findings.

(Medical Officer of Health, Mayor Lastman, Chief Administrative Officer; cc: Interested Persons - November 16, 1998)

147. Phasing Out Pesticide Use in the City of Toronto

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) The Board of Health and City Council make a commitment to the reduction and phase out of pesticides used on City-owned lands;
- (2) the Board of Health and City Council request the Medical Officer of Health and the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) to:
 - (a) establish a Pesticides Subcommittee, with representatives from relevant departments and the public, to develop a Corporate policy and action plan for the reduction and phase out of pesticides used on City-owned lands;
 - (b) report through the Medical Officer of Health to the Board of Health by April 1999 on the Corporate policy and action plan; and
 - (c) implement the first phase of the action plan in the summer of 1999.
- (3) the Board of Health request the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Medical Officer of Health to submit a joint report to the Board of Health and to the Economic Development Committee on the findings of a survey of pesticide-free maintenance programs in other jurisdictions and the options for implementing a pesticide-free maintenance program in Toronto parks;
- (4) the Medical Officer of Health and the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) develop and implement an action plan to pilot the use of Integrated Pest Management in City-owned indoor properties;
- (5) the Medical Officer of Health and the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE) develop and implement, in collaboration with community organizations, a coordinated pesticide public education program to help residents reduce their exposures and assist them in making informed decisions about pesticide use;
- (6) City Council request that the federal Minister of Health:
 - (a) document non-agricultural pesticide use;

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- (b) require disclosure of the names of inert ingredients on pest control product labels; and
 - (c) remove the exemption which applies to pesticides under the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS).
- (7) City Council request that the Ontario Minister of Environment:
- (a) research and implement economic incentives to promote the use of sustainable pest management strategies;
 - (b) establish a 1% waste handling charge on all pesticides sold in Ontario; and
 - (c) foster an industry stewardship initiative to collect unused or unwanted pest control products and their containers from residential households.

The Board of Health also had before it the following reports/communications:

- (October 30, 1998) from the Toronto Public Health, Environmental Protection Office
- (October 29, 1998) from the Chair, Environmental Task Force, addressed to Works and Utilities Committee, Board of Health and Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee recommending:
 - (1) That City Council indicate its support for the development of targets, strategies and actions to eliminate uses of chemical pesticides on public green space and in public buildings by all City departments, agencies, boards and commissions and that targets, strategies and actions be established in time for preparation for the 1999 growing season (ie. winter, 1998);
 - (2) That City Council and relevant City departments, agencies, boards and commissions be advised that the Task Force strongly supports the following actions which are underway by City staff:
 - i) an inventory of types, volumes and reasons for chemical pesticide use both indoors and outdoors by all City departments, agencies, boards and commissions; and
 - ii) strategies and options to reduce/eliminate chemical pesticide uses in the City of Toronto.

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- (3) That City Council be advised that the Environmental Task Force is willing to assist by examining the issue of chemical pesticides, including the reports being prepared by City staff, and recommending a plan which will include targets, time lines, options and strategies for the elimination of pesticide uses in Toronto;
- (4) That the Works and Utilities Committee receive this report for information;
- (5) That the Board of Health adopt this report and forward it to City Council together with the report on pesticides from the Medical Officer of Health;
- (6) That the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee receive this report for information and consideration together with the pending report requested by City Council on pesticide alternatives and costs involved from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; and
- (7) That the Toronto Inter-departmental Environment Team (TIE) submit the inventory of indoor and outdoor pesticide uses and the proposed corporate strategy for the reduction/elimination of outdoor pesticide uses to the Environmental Task Force by fall 1998 en route to Standing Committee..

- (November 5, 1998) from Dr. Sakuls, The Ontario College of Family Physicians
- (November 5, 1998) from Lorraine Johnson, Toronto
- (November 9, 1998) from Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto
- (Undated) from Peter Leiss, Vice President, Toronto Civic Employees Union Local 416
- (November 10, 1998) from Ramona Burke, Etobicoke

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health adopted the report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health subject to the following amendment, and recommended that Council, at its meeting on November 25, 1998, also adopt this report as amended:

- (1) Amending Recommendation (1) by adding the following:

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- (a) by developing targets, strategies and actions to eliminate the use of pesticides to be established in time for the 1999 growing season; and
 - (b) with the goal of designating all public green space in Toronto as pesticide free by Spring 1999, allowing for exceptions, such as emergency infestations to be determined by the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the Pesticide Subcommittee described in Recommendation (2).
- (2) amending Recommendation (2) (a) and (b) so as to read:
- (a) establish a Pesticides Subcommittee, with representatives from the public and representatives from CUPE Local 416, relevant departments including personnel with demonstrated expertise in pesticide reduction, and from businesses with demonstrated expertise in pesticide-free horticultural practices. This Pesticide Subcommittee will develop a Corporate policy and action plan for the reduction and phase out of pesticides used on City-owned lands;
 - (b) implement the action plan by Spring 1999 and report to the Board of Health;
- (3) amending Recommendation (5) to read:
- “(5) the Medical Officer of Health and the Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE)
- (a) investigate the feasibility of regulating the use of pesticides on private property as is presently done in the City of Westmount, Quebec; and
 - (b) develop and implement, in collaboration with community organizations, a coordinated pesticide public education program to help residents reduce their exposures and assist them in making informed

decisions about pesticide use and
report to the Board of Health;"

- (4) amending Recommendation (7) by adding the following:
 - “(d) provide enabling legislation for municipalities to regulate the use of pesticides within municipal boundaries”
- (5) adding the following additional recommendation:
 - “(8) City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions and School Boards be invited to participate on the Pesticide Subcommittee and participate in the City’s goal for a pesticides-free green space.”

(Medical Officer of Health; cc: Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, Toronto Inter-Departmental Environment Team (TIE), Interested Persons - November 16, 1998)

(Report No. 13, Clause 1)

148. Reducing Indoor Pesticide Spraying in the Residential Sector

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending:

- (1) That the Board of Health endorse Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the least-toxic, most effective method for controlling cockroaches in houses and multi-unit residential buildings;
- (2) that Public Health staff work with staff in other divisions and departments to develop an action plan to implement widespread use of IPM for cockroach control. Creation of the action plan should address the following aspects:
 - (a) Promotion of IPM for cockroach control in city-owned residential buildings;
 - (b) Review of municipal by-laws that concern cockroach control in multi-unit residential buildings, including recommendations for improvement as warranted; and

- (c) Development of a consistent public response strategy by municipal officials that encourages City residents to use IPM methods for cockroach control instead of traditional pesticide spraying.

The Board of Health also had before it a copy of the reports from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation headed "Farewell to Cockroaches" and "Curbing Cockroaches: The Least Toxic Way", and (1998) Toronto Public Health report headed "Cockroach Control in the Housing Sector: Evaluation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Demonstration Project for an Apartment Complex".

The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Rich Wate, Toronto Environmental Alliance, Toronto
- Peter Leiss, CUPE Local 416

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health amended Recommendation (1) of the report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health by incorporating the words "and all other City-owned buildings", so as to read:

- "(1) That the Board of Health endorse Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the least-toxic, most effective method for controlling cockroaches in houses and multi-residential buildings and all other City-owned buildings;"

and adopted the report as amended.

(Medical Officer of Health; cc: Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, Commissioner of Corporate Services, Interested Persons - November 16, 1998)

149. A Multi-faceted Food Access Strategy for the City of Toronto

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 4, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health receive this report for information; and
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health provide proposals for refinancing the Food Access Program Grants within the 1999 Public Health Budget report to the Board of Health in December.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (November 9, 1998) from the Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto advising that it supports the Recommendations 1 and 2 as listed in the November 4, 1998 report, entitled “A Multi-Faceted Food Access Strategy for the City of Toronto”

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health:

- (1) Adopted the report (November 4, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health; and
- (2) forwarded a copy of the report to the Municipal Grants Review Committee with a request to include Food Access Grants in its deliberations and requested appropriate Public Health staff to attend this meeting.

(Municipal Grants Review Committee; cc: Medical Officer of Health
- November 16, 1998)

150. Toronto Heart Health Program

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

- (1) The Board of Health approve the four strategic directions outlined in this report; and
- (2) the Board of Health demonstrate commitment to preventing cardiovascular disease through the ongoing allocation of sufficient staff resources to implement a comprehensive heart health program in the city of Toronto over the next five years.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (November 9, 1998) from the Northern Health Area Community Health Board of the former City of Toronto advising that it adopted the following Motion proposed by Anne Marie Keogh:

- “(a) That the Northern Health Area Community Health Board supports the recommendations as listed on the November 10, 1998 agenda.
- (b) That education also be directed to children with diabetes and their families related to the prevention of heart disease.

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

(Medical Officer of Health - November 16, 1998)

151. Access and Equity to Health: Immigrant and Refugee Issues

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) The Board of Health reaffirm its commitment to access and equity, and immigrant and refugee health issues;
- (2) the Board of Health direct Toronto Public Health to continue to integrate principles of access and equity in the provision of public health services and programs and respond to the health needs of Toronto's immigrants and refugees; and
- (3) the Board of Health forward this report to the Task Force on Community Access and Equity and the Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugee Issues in Toronto.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the report (October 30, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Task Force on Community Access and Equity, Advisory Committee on Immigration and Refugee Issues in Toronto; cc: Medical Officer of Health, Interested Persons - November 16, 1998)

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Chair.