

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**City Clerk's Division**

**Minutes of the Board of Health**

**Meeting No. 3**

**Tuesday, April 6, 1999**

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 6, 1999, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 2:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

	<u>2:00 p.m.-5:20 p.m.</u>
Councillor John Filion, Chair	x
Councillor Irene Jones, Vice-Chair	x
Councillor Gerry Altobello	x
Ms. Jan Campbell	
Mr. Robert Davies	
Councillor Anne Johnston	x
Councillor Joan King	x
Ms. Gail Lindsay	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Councillor Joe Mihevc	x
Mr. Steven Pinnock	x
Councillor Michael Prue	
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x

**Observer:**

Trustee Gerri Gershon, Toronto District School Board

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

**Confirmation of Minutes.**

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Health held on December 1, 1998, December 8, 1998, and January 25, 1999, were confirmed.

**3.1 A Harmonized Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) By-law for the City of Toronto: Community Input Process.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 26, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) adopt the process outlined in this report to seek public input on the proposed Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) by-law for the City of Toronto; and
- (2) forward the attached policy options and recommendations paper to Community Councils for staff presentation and deputations.

The Board also had before it a petition, addressed to Councillor Case Ootes, Councillor Jane Pitfield and Councillor Michael Prue, for Ward 1, submitted by approximately 35 students at Leaside High School, seeking support in creating a smoke-free environment in all Toronto restaurants.

Dr. Sheela Basrur, Medical Officer of Health, gave a presentation to the Board of Health on the aforementioned report.

Councillor Mihevc moved:

- (1) the adoption of the aforementioned report; and
- (2) that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to include in the information being forwarded for discussion:
  - (i) comment on the “economic hardship” clause in use in some U.S. jurisdictions; and
  - (ii) a summary of the various economic analyses that have been undertaken. **(Carried)**

Councillor Johnston moved that the aforementioned report be received.  
**(Lost)**

(Community Councils; Medical Officer of Health; Councillors Ootes, Pitfield and Prue; Interested Parties)

**3.2 Changes in Ontario’s Electrical Sector and Air Quality.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that the Ontario Minister of the Environment and the Ontario Minister of Energy, Science and Technology:

- (1) establish the regulatory framework necessary to ensure that competition in Ontario's electrical sector does not lead to greater reliance on coal-fired generating stations and further degradation of air quality, human health and environment in Toronto and the rest of Southern Ontario;
- (2) establish annual air emission caps for the entire electrical sector to limit the volume of air pollutants released each year, ensuring that caps:
  - (a) apply to companies supplying electricity to Ontario as well as those generating electricity in Ontario;
  - (b) encompass carbon dioxide and persistent toxins as well as sulphur dioxide nitrogen oxides to encourage a shift towards natural gas and renewable energies for the production of electricity;
  - (c) for the year 2002 be set as follows: 17.5 kilotonnes (kt) for sulphur dioxide, 25 kt for nitrogen oxides, 15,000 kt for carbon dioxide, 19 kilograms (kg) for arsenic, 9 kg for beryllium, 7 kg for cadmium, 180 kg for chromium, 24 kg for lead, 45 kg for mercury, and 228 kg for nickel, as recommended by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance; and
  - (d) for 2010, reduce the annual air emissions cap for nitrogen oxides to reflect the cap recommended by the Ontario Medical Association for coal generated electricity;
- (3) establish a renewable energy standard which defines the percentage of electricity that must be generated with renewable energies by electrical suppliers serving Ontario consumers; and
- (4) establish a public benefit fund to support the promotion of energy conservation and the development of renewable energies with a surcharge on the transmission of electricity.

Ms. Kim Perrotta, Environmental Protection Office, Public Health Division, gave a presentation to the Board of Health on the aforementioned report.

The Board of Health also had before it the following communications (April 6, 1999) from Councillor Jack Layton, Don River:

- (i) recommending that:
- (1) all City of Toronto building managers be requested to immediately turn down the air conditioners in City buildings so that the average temperature is 25 degrees Celsius, except in buildings where medical and other circumstances require a different temperature;
  - (2) the City of Toronto call on all building owners, tenants and anyone else responsible for controlling temperature in buildings to turn down the air conditioning so that the average air temperature is 25 degrees Celsius;
  - (3) the Medical Officer of Health and the Energy Efficiency Office approach the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) to develop a "Dress Cool, Breathe Well Challenge" that is paid for by a percentage of the savings from reduced energy bills that come from participants involved in this initiative; and
  - (4) the Medical Officer of Health, in conjunction with the Energy Efficiency Office, calculate the potential reduction in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions and other harmful pollutants from a city-wide reduction in air conditioning use; and
- (ii) forwarding Toronto Hydro's Green Energy Position Paper, which includes a commitment to having 5 percent of customer load being met by renewable sources of energy by the end of 2002.

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

- Mr. Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance;
- Councillor John Adams, Midtown; and
- Councillor Jack Layton, Don River.

Councillor King moved:

- (1) the adoption of the aforementioned report from the Medical Officer of Health;
- (2) that the report be forwarded to Council for information;
- (3) that the report also be forwarded to the Minister of Health and circulated to all Boards of Health across the Province of Ontario;

- (4) that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Board of Health, scheduled to be held on May 6, 1999, on the feasibility of providing to the Board, on a quarterly basis, an analysis of Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada air quality monitoring data for the Toronto region;
- (5) that Toronto Hydro be requested to work cooperatively with the Toronto District Heating Corporation to ensure that deep lake water cooling takes effect in Toronto;
- (6) that the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to involve the Energy Efficiency Office and the Medical Officer of Health in City discussions with respect to the development of the proposed shareholders agreements between the City of Toronto and Toronto Hydro and the Toronto District Heating Corporation, respectively; and
- (7) that the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to ensure that adequate resources are available to the Energy Efficiency Office to investigate measures that could be taken to reduce energy usage.

**(Carried)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that:

- (1) the Medical Officer of Health be requested to report back to the next meeting of the Board of Health, scheduled to be held on May 6, 1999, on:
  - (i) the recommendations embodied in the aforementioned communication (i) dated April 6, 1999, from Councillor Jack Layton, including the health impact of turning down air conditioners in City buildings to maintain an average temperature of 25 degrees Celsius;
  - (ii) the feasibility of establishing voluntary agreements with key industries that are high energy users; and
  - (iii) the effect of deep lake water cooling on Toronto's ecosystem; and
- (2) the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services be requested to include Public Health in work to develop a new Official Plan with respect to energy use and other public health issues.

**(Carried)**

Councillor Johnston moved that the Executive Director of Facilities and Real Estate be requested to report to the Board of Health on the use of ceiling fans as an alternative to air conditioning. **(Lost)**

(Minister of the Environment; Minister of Energy, Science and Technology; Minister of Health; Ontario Boards of Health; Medical Officer of Health; Chief Administrative Officer; Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services; Toronto Hydro; Toronto District Heating Corporation; Councillor Jack Layton)

**(Clause No. 1, Report No. 4)**

**3.3 Update on Recommendations from the  
Cyclospora Outbreak of Spring 1998.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health informing the Board on the status of the recommendations made in the October 1, 1998 Board of Health Report on the Cyclospora Outbreak in spring 1998; and recommending that the Board of Health continue to request that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency not allow Guatemalan raspberries to be brought into Canada until they have been shown to be contamination-free.

The Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report.

(Medical Officer of Health; Canadian Food Inspection Agency)

**3.4 Update on Tuberculosis.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health providing information to the Board of Health about the epidemiology of Tuberculosis (TB) in the City; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health received the aforementioned report.

(Medical Officer of Health)

**3.5 Public Health Education and Preventive Services in  
Mental Health and their Role in Suicide Prevention.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health support Public Health's continued role in the three major interventions for reducing suicides as outlined in this report: restricting access to the methods of suicide; developing a system of mental health services for Toronto that is adequate to need; and promoting mental health and preventing mental illness among the Toronto population;
- (2) the Board of Health advocate to the Ontario Ministry of Health for full funding for mental health services in Toronto as stipulated by the Metropolitan Toronto Health Reform strategy. The Province should immediately release the \$21 million for mental health services in Toronto which it announced in December 1998, and allocate an additional \$30 million as soon as possible to bring total funding in line with the Mental Health Reform recommendation of \$51 million; and
- (3) the Board of Health, in concert with the Canadian Mental Health Association and other community mental health agencies, continue to monitor mental health needs and service adequacy in Toronto, advocate for sufficient resources to meet ongoing and emerging needs, and collaborate in mental health promotion and education.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report, subject to amending Recommendation No. (1) by deleting the word "developing" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "identifying, advocating and participating in", so that such recommendation reads as follows:

- "(1) the Board of Health support Public Health's continued role in the three major interventions for reducing suicides as outlined in this report: restricting access to the methods of suicide; identifying, advocating and participating in a system of mental health services for Toronto that is adequate to need; and promoting mental health and preventing mental illness among the Toronto population;".

(Minister of Health; Medical Officer of Health)

**3.6 Support for Effective Gun Control Legislation -  
The Firearms Act, 1995 (Bill C-68).**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health informing the Board of Health of action taken on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in December 1998 in support of The Firearms Act, Bill C-68, and to apprise the Board of earlier positions taken by former Boards of Health within Metro Toronto on the issue of gun control; and recommending that the Board of Health endorse support for The Firearms Act, Bill C-68.

The Board of Health endorsed support for The Firearms Act, Bill C-68.

(Medical Officer of Health)

**3.7 Status Report: Progress in the Formation of a  
Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 25, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health reporting on progress to date in the formation of a Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition based on the recommendations of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer (1995), and on the requirements and standards for the early detection of cancer outlined in the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines (Public Health Branch, 1997); and recommending that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

The Board of Health received the aforementioned report for information.

(Medical Officer of Health)

**3.8 1999 Operating Budget Update.**

The Medical Officer of Health provided a verbal report to the Board of Health with respect to the status of the 1999 Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health:

- (1) received the verbal status report; and
- (2) recommended that Council ensure that any savings achieved by virtue of 50 percent provincial funding of mandatory public health programs be directed first for public health purposes, in particular levelling-up services across the City, and secondly for any other purposes.

(City Council; c: Medical Officer of Health)

**3.9 Community Health Profiles and Strategic Planning Update.**



The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health updating the Board regarding the 1999 strategic and program planning being undertaken by Toronto Public Health; forwarding fact sheets on Health Risks and Public Health Service Needs for each of the Community Councils; and recommending that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

The Board of Health received the aforementioned report as information.

(Medical Officer of Health)

### **3.10 Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee.**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (March 25, 1999) from Councillor Irene Jones recommending that the Board reconsider its decision, at its meeting on February 22, 1999, to dissolve the Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee; and further requesting approval of the addition of two members previously identified, the Parrot Association of Canada and the Ontario Exotic Pet Council.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health reestablished the Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee expanded to include two additional members, as recommended in the aforementioned communication.

Councillor Filion appointed Councillor Jones Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board thanked Councillor Jones and the members of the Sub-Committee for their contribution with respect to the Animal Services By-law.

Councillor Filion resumed the Chair.

(Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee; Councillor Irene Jones; Parrot Association of Canada, Ontario Exotic Pet Council; c: Medical Officer of Health)

**3.11 Board of Health Representative on ALPHA Board of Directors.**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (March 10, 1999) from Mr. Andrew Papadopoulos, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), requesting a replacement for former member, Ms. Elca Rennick, as the Toronto Board of Health representative.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health appointed Mr. Steven Pinnock as the Board's representative on the ALPHA Board of Directors.

(Executive Director, ALPHA; Mr. Steven Pinnock)

**3.12 Schedule of Meetings, May-July, 1999.**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (March 1999) from the Secretary, Board of Health, submitting the following schedule of meetings for the Board from May to July, 1999:

Thursday, May 6, 1999	-	12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 3, 1999	-	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
*Monday, June 28 and	-	10:00 a.m. - full day and evening
*Tuesday, June 29, 1999	-	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 22, 1999	-	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(\*Special meeting to consider the Environmental Tobacco Smoke By-law)

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned schedule of meetings.

**3.13 Board of Health By-law to Provide for the Remuneration of Members of the Board of Health.**

The Board of Health had before it a By-law to Provide for the Remuneration of Members of the Board of Health.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned by-law.

### **3.14 Action Strategy for the Public Health Response to Homelessness.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 31, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health adopt the Public Health Action Strategy outlined in this report and forward it to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee for information and to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services for inclusion in the departmental response to the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force;
- (2) the Board of Health recommend to the Budget Committee that an additional five FTEs be approved to serve the health needs of homeless and near homeless persons in under-served areas of Toronto, subject to a further report by the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services on possible funding sources;
- (3) the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services work with the Toronto District Health Council, the provincial Ministry of Health, the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health, the Canadian Mental Health Association and other key stakeholders to develop a strategy to implement the health recommendations in the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force Report;
- (4) the Board of Health urge the provincial Minister of Health and the Minister of Community and Social Services to earmark funds from the transfer of federal monies for health and social services to a dedicated Homeless Health Fund to address the special needs of homeless persons; and
- (5) the Board of Health establish a TB sub-committee of the Board with the membership and terms of reference outlined in Appendix D.

The Board also had before it the following communications:

- (i) (April 1, 1999) from Ms. Cathy Crowe, RN, Homeless Team, forwarding previous recommendations regarding the department's role in response to the disaster of homelessness; and supporting the establishment of a TB sub-committee of the Board of Health;
- (ii) (April 1, 1999) from Ms. Leslie Jardine, Manager, Family Residence Shelter, in support of efforts to increase the presence of health care staff in shelters; and

- (iii) (April 6, 1999) from Ms. Sybil Longley, Executive Director, WoodGreen Red Door Family Shelter, respecting the impact of cuts to Mental Health services, in particular on those who work with the homeless and for those who are homeless in Toronto.

Councillor King moved the adoption of the aforementioned report, subject to amending Recommendation No. (2) by adding thereto the words:

“including but not limited to the provincial Homeless Health Fund, and that this request be considered by the Budget Committee at such time as it is dealing with the response to the Mayor’s Homelessness Action Task Force.” **(Carried, as amended)**

Mr. Zaslofsky moved that the foregoing motion by Councillor King be amended by amending Recommendation No. (1) of the aforementioned report to provide that the report also be forwarded to the Toronto District Health Council. **(Carried)**

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Minister of Health; Minister of Community and Social Services; Toronto District Health Council c: Ms. Cathy Crowe; Ms. Leslie Jardine; Ms. Sybil Longley)

### **3.15 Toronto Hospital Community Advisory Committee.**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (April 5, 1999) from its Nominating Sub-Committee recommending that the names of the following six persons be forwarded to the Chair, Toronto Hospital Community Advisory Committee, in response to the request that the Board of Health select six persons for appointment to the Advisory Committee:

- Kitty McConnell;
- Brian MacKay;
- Fiona Nelson;
- Mustapha Raji;
- Elca Rennick; and
- Colleen Swider.

On motion by Councillor Johnston, the Board of Health adopted the recommendation embodied in the aforementioned communication.

(Chair, Toronto Hospital Community Advisory Council; Nominees)

### **3.16 Introduction of Dr. Monir Taha.**

13  
Board of Health Minutes  
Tuesday, April 6, 1999

---

The Medical Officer of Health introduced Dr. Monir Taha, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Director for Healthy Environments.

The Board of Health adjourned its meeting at 5:20 p.m.

---

Chair.