

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting No. 4

Tuesday, April 10, 2001

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 2:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Sandra Bussin	x
Councillor John Filion	x
Councillor Irene Jones	x
Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair	x
Councillor Jane Pitfield	x
Councillor Michael Prue, Vice Chair	x
Ms. Helen Chan	x
Mr. Brian Hyndman	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari	x
Ms. Nancy Peters	x
Trustee Mark Stefanini	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	

Also Present:

Ms. Fiona Nelson.
Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Pam McConnell
Councillor David Miller
Councillor Sherene Shaw

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on February 19, 2001, were confirmed.

4.1 Appointment of Citizen Members to the Board of Health.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (March 14, 2001) from the City Clerk, Nominating Committee, advising that City Council, at its meeting on March 6, 7 and 8, 2001, by its adoption of Clause No. 2 of Report No. 2 of the Nominating Committee, appointed the following people to the Board of Health for a term of office to expire November 30, 2003, and until their successors are appointed: Ms. Helen Chan, Mr. Brian Hyndman, Dr. Rosanna Pellizzari, Ms. Nancy E. Peters, Mr. Brian S. MacKay, Mr. Lee Zaslofsky and Trustee Mark Stefanini as a representative from education.

The Chair welcomed the new Members of the Board.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health received the aforementioned communication.

4.2 Update on Budget Process.

The Chair gave a verbal update report on the 2001 Public Health Budget and the Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation with respect thereto.

Councillor Olivia Chow and Councillor Pam McConnell appeared before the Board in connection with this matter.

The Board:

- (1) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board for its next meeting on the extent to which the City's budget cuts will prevent the Toronto Board of Health from meeting its obligations under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, such report to include comment as to whether the Board needs to seek the assistance of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer in requiring the City to provide funding in order to meet its legal obligations; **(moved by Councillor Filion)**
- (2) recommended that the Policy and Finance Committee reverse the Budget Advisory Committee's most recent recommendations (of April 6, 2001) and restore funding to the Toronto Public Health Budget to the amount of \$63,438,500.00 (net) as recommended by the Budget Advisory Committee on March 26, 2001; **(moved by Councillor Prue)**
- (3) recommended to Policy and Finance Committee that the City Auditor be requested to:

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- (a) investigate and account for the \$13.2 million interdepartmental charges in the Toronto Public Health budget and report back to the Board of Health and the Budget Advisory Committee; and
- (b) investigate and report back to the Board of Health and the Budget Advisory Committee on a competitive process whereby the IT program could be out-sourced; **(moved by Councillor Pitfield)**
- (4) requested the Commissioner of Community Services and the Medical Officer of Health to bring forward previous reports with respect to tendering the dental services between the Ontario Dental Association and other delivery service models and to comment on why the Ontario Dental Association was not selected through this fair tendering process; **(moved by Councillor Pitfield on behalf of Councillor Chow)**
- (5) reiterated its support for the non-mandatory dental programs available to low income and poor children and seniors and advised that it will seek ways to preserve this important service; **(moved by Councillor Bussin)**
- (6) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health on service improvement initiatives currently underway and additional options for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of public health programs including, but not limited to, a value for money audit process; **(moved by Councillor Mihevc)** and
- (7) recommended to Policy and Finance Committee that \$317,000.00 (net), \$634,000.00 (gross) be reinstated for the food premises disclosure system, **(moved by Councillor Mihevc)**.

With respect to the foregoing Motion No. (7), Councillor Pitfield was recorded as voting in the negative.

The following motions did not carry:

- (a) Councillor Pitfield moved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to investigate a model of using private dental offices allowing clients to use Ontario Works or CINOT eligibility forms;
- (b) Councillor Pitfield, on behalf of Councillor Chow, moved that the Board of Health support a new investment of \$622,500.00 for prenatal and parenting programs on the condition that it is cost-shared with the Province of Ontario;
- (c) Trustee Stefanini moved that:

- (i) service agreements with Planned Parenthood of Toronto, Youthlink, InnerCity; AIDS Committee of Toronto; BCVD Clinic; and Immigrant Women's Health Centre not be funded; and
- (ii) 90 percent of the dental program be funded.

(Policy and Finance Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Councillor Chow and Councillor McConnell – April 12, 2001)

4.3 Implementation of “The Growing Season” Phase 2 Report of the Food and Hunger Action Committee.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 28, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, presenting the Toronto Food Charter and the "Growing Season," Phase 2 Report of the Food and Hunger Action Committee, outlining the role of Toronto Public Health in the implementation of the Food and Hunger Action Plan, advising that there are no financial implications arising from this report and recommending that this report be received for information.

Ms Debbie Field, Executive Director, FoodShare Toronto, appeared before the Board in connection with this matter.

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

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Ms. Debbie Field, Executive Director, FoodShare Toronto – April 12, 2001)

4.4 Genetically Engineered Foods.

The Board of Health had before it report (March 26, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on the issue of genetic engineering of food using public health principles and presenting a summary of a larger Technical Report prepared by Toronto Public Health staff (see Attachment 1); synthesizing relevant information based on the findings of reviews of scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed journals, government reports, and advocacy group reports, in relation to public health principles, recommending that other Public Health stakeholders be consulted in order to develop recommendations, and further recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health direct Public Health staff to lead a consultation with other Public Health stakeholders (e.g., the Ontario Public Health Association, the Canadian Public Health Association, Boards of Health in Ontario) to develop recommendations that will address the public health implications of genetically engineered food; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to continue to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Mr. Peter Elson, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association, appeared before the Board in connection with this matter.

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

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – April 12, 2001)

4.5 West Nile Virus.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 28, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health on the current situation in Ontario on prevention and control measures for the West Nile Virus (WNV), recommending action to be taken by the City; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report, that resource requirements for the West Nile Response Plan will be subject to a future report to be prepared by the Inter-departmental West Nile Co-ordinating Committee; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health request City Council to:
 - (a) endorse the preparation of a co-ordinated City of Toronto West Nile Response Plan for the prevention and control of the West Nile Virus that minimizes the use of pesticides;
 - (b) ensure that the Inter-departmental West Nile Co-ordinating Committee develop and implement a West Nile Response Plan for the City including estimates of the costs of implementation;
 - (c) request the Province of Ontario to provide 100 percent funding to support the measures required to prevent and control the spread of West Nile virus, including the implementation of the City of Toronto West Nile Response Plan;

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- (2) the Medical Officer of Health be requested to report back on staff activities to prevent and control the West Nile virus in Toronto; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (February 27, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, forwarding a copy of a communication (February 27, 2001) to Premier Mike Harris, requesting that an effective response plan for West Nile Virus be developed.

Mr. Peter Tabuns, Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada, appeared before the Board in connection with this matter, and submitted a written brief.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health amended and adopted the aforementioned report, and recommended that City Council:

- (1) endorse the preparation of a co-ordinated City of Toronto West Nile Response Plan for the prevention and control of the West Nile Virus that minimizes the use of pesticides;
- (2) ensure that the Inter-departmental West Nile Co-ordinating Committee develop and implement a West Nile Response Plan for the City including estimates of the costs of implementation;
- (3) request the Medical Officer of Health to submit a report on staff activities to prevent and control the West Nile Virus in Toronto to the Board of Health meeting scheduled to be held on June 18, 2001;
- (4) request the Province of Ontario to provide 100 percent funding to support the measures required to prevent and control the spread of West Nile virus, in affected communities across Ontario, including the implementation of the City of Toronto West Nile Response Plan;
- (5) recommend to the Province of Ontario that the Province approach the Federal

- Government to cost share the program for West Nile Virus control as the Federal Government also carries responsibility for addressing the problems resulting from climate change;
- (6) urge the Province of Ontario to take a strong leadership role in the prevention and control of West Nile Virus in Ontario including:
 - (a) a province-wide communication and education campaign;
 - (b) a province-wide direction and coordination of surveillance, source reduction and mosquito control measures;
 - (7) urge the Federal Government to ratify the Kyoto treaty immediately and accelerate its actions to deal with climate change; and
 - (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 2)

4.6 Harmonized Municipal Alcohol Policy.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (March 7, 2001) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Medical Officer of Health, addressed to the Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Board of Health, introducing, for Council's consideration, a draft harmonized Municipal Alcohol Policy (MAP), advising the MAP will apply to all Special Occasion Permit events held on City-owned locations, and to any event for which the City is the Special Occasion Permit holder, advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) Council adopt the harmonized Municipal Alcohol Policy as outlined in Attachment No. 1;
- (2) the harmonized Municipal Alcohol Policy not come into effect until six months after the date of Council's approval in order that implementation measures

identified in Attachment No. 3 may be carried out;

- (3) the existing Municipal Alcohol Policies of the former municipalities remain in effect during the six-month period noted in Recommendation No. 2 above;
- (4) the harmonized Municipal Alcohol Policy be forwarded to all City agencies, boards and commissions for their information, and that Council recommend to all agencies, boards and commissions that they give consideration to adopting policies respecting alcohol risk management; and
- (5) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health recommended to Council, adoption of the aforementioned joint report (March 7, 2001) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Medical Officer of Health.

(City Council, c. Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Administrator, Economic Development and Parks Committee – April 12, 2001)

4.7 Air Quality and Environmental Assessment for the Nanticoke Coal-fired Power Plant.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 21, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health of the health and environmental implications of Ontario Power Generation's proposal to install selective catalytic reduction (SCR) units at the Nanticoke coal-fired power plant, seeking authorization to request that an environmental assessment be conducted; advising that there are no direct financial implications for Toronto Public Health or the City of Toronto, and recommending that City Council:

- (a) request that Canada's Minister of the Environment refer Ontario Power Generation's proposal to install selective catalytic reduction (SCR) units on its Nanticoke coal-fired power plant to an Environmental Assessment Panel with directions to consider the alternative of conversion to natural gas;
- (b) request that the Ontario Minister of the Environment require Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to prepare an environmental assessment under section 6.1(2) of the Environmental Assessment Act for its proposal to install selective catalytic

reduction units on its Nanticoke coal-fired power plant with directions to give full consideration to the alternative of conversion to natural gas, and refer this assessment to the Ontario Environmental Review Tribunal for a full public hearing;

- (c) request that both Ministers of the Environment establish a joint review panel to address OPG's environmental assessment; and
- (d) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (February 7, 2001) from Mr. Jack Gibbons, Chair, Ontario Clean Air Alliance, requesting Council to pass a resolution requesting the Provincial and Federal Ministries of the Environment to subject Ontario Power Generation's proposal to install selective catalytic reduction units at its Lambton and Nanticoke coal-fired plants to a full public environmental assessment, and providing background information.

Mr. Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance, appeared before the Board in connection with this matter.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health recommended to Council adoption of the foregoing report and, further, that the report be forwarded to all Boards of Health in Ontario for endorsement.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 2)

4.8 Prevention of Feeding of Wild Animals.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (January 30, 2001) from Councillor David Miller, requesting the Board of Health to develop and recommend to Council a by-law to prevent the feeding of wild animals.

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

- Councillor David Miller, and
- Ms. Nathalie Karvonen, Executive Director, Toronto Wildlife Centre.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health referred the foregoing communication to the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Solicitor, with a request that she submit a report

to the next meeting of the Board on May 22, 2001, with respect to the prevention of feeding of potentially dangerous wild animals and to include in such report comment on the form and content of a by-law, subject to Provincial approval where required.

(Councillor David Miller; c. Medical Officer of Health; City Solicitor; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – April 12, 2001)

4.9 Aggressive Dogs.

The Board of Health had before it a proposed resolution for the Board's consideration submitted by Councillor Joanne Flint, the operative paragraph of which reads:

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Legal staff, in cooperation with Animal Control and Health Department staff, report on ways and means in which the City's by-laws might be amended so as to afford more protection to those people who feel threatened by vicious and uncontrolled animals.”

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health referred the foregoing matter to the Medical Officer of Health with a request that she meet with Councillor Flint and provide her with the relevant information and report back to the Board.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Councillor Joanne Flint; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.10 Child Nutrition Programs in Toronto.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 23, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on the Toronto Child Nutrition Program Annual Reports for 1998/1999 and 1999/2000; describing the current status of the programs, including their expansion and funding shortfall relative to growing health needs; advising that the Child Nutrition Program for the year 2000/2001 is allocated \$1,791,800.00 from the municipality's Consolidated Grants Budget with matching contributions from the provincial government, private sector, school boards and parents; and recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) forward this report for information to the Policy and Finance Committee, the Child and Youth Action Committee, the Toronto District School Board, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board;
- (2) continue to advocate to the Province of Ontario for additional funding for Child Nutrition Programs; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give hereto.

On motion by Councillor Bussin, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report and, further, recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee that:

- (i) the proposed 2.5 percent reduction in funding to Child Nutrition Programs (which equals 40,000 meals) not be adopted; and
- (ii) that the eight elementary schools that have not received municipal funding for this school year, under the Child Nutrition Program, receive funds in the amount of \$60,000.00.

(Policy and Finance Committee; c. Children and Youth Action Committee; Toronto District School Board; Toronto Catholic District School Board; Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.11 Animal Wildlife.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 29, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, responding to Toronto Wildlife Centre's proposal to establish a Wildlife Hot-line partially funded by the City; advising that there are no financial implications stemming from this report, that Toronto Public Health is unable to fund this request within the recommended 2001 budget for Animal Services; and recommending that this report be received for information.

Ms. Nathalie Karvonen, Toronto Wildlife Centre, appeared before the Board in connection with this matter.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health received the foregoing report and, further, directed

that the request for funding for the Wildlife Hot-line be considered as part of the 2002 Operating Budget.

(Ms. Nathalie Karvonen, Toronto Wildlife Centre; c. Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.12 Appointment to the Sustainability Roundtable.

The Board of Health had before it report (February 2, 2001) from the City Clerk, Sustainability Roundtable, recommending that a member of the Board of Health be appointed as the Board's representative to the Sustainability Roundtable for a term of office expiring May 31, 2002, and until their successor is appointed.

On motion by Mr. MacKay, the Board of Health appointed Councillor Irene Jones (and Mr. Brian MacKay as her alternate) as the Board's representative to the Sustainability Roundtable for a term of office expiring May 31, 2002 and until her successor is appointed.

(Sustainability Roundtable; c. Councillor Irene Jones; Mr. Brian MacKay; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Ms. Joanne Hamill, Manager, Community Councils and Committees; Ms. Helen Smith, Administrator, Nominating Committee; Ms. Fern Deramaix, Research Support, City Clerk's – April 12, 2001)

4.13 Appointment of Representative to the Toronto District Health Council.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health recommended to Council that the following Members of the Board of Health be nominated for appointment to the Toronto District Health Council for a term of office expiring May 31, 2002 and until the respective successor is appointed to replace the Member who is appointed:

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari and
Councillor Jane Pitfield.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 2)

4.14 Membership/Appointments to the Board of Health Substance Abuse Subcommittee.

The Board of had before it a report (March 27, 2001) from the City Clerk, Substance Abuse Sub-Committee, recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health re-confirm the establishment of the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee and endorse the Terms of Reference, Objectives, and membership composition, as outlined in Appendix "A";
- (2) the Board of Health appoint three of its members (at least one member to be a member of Council) for a term expiring May 31, 2002, or until a successor is appointed, to the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee;
- (3) the City Clerk contact the organizations listed in Appendix "A" to determine if said organizations wish to continue as a member of the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee; and
- (4) the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee meet at the call of the Chair or as needed.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report (March 27, 2001) from the City Clerk, Substance Abuse Subcommittee, and, further, appointed Councillor Michael Prue, Mr. Lee Zaslofsky, and Mr. Brian Hyndman, to the Substance Abuse Subcommittee, in accordance with Recommendation No. (2) contained therein.

(Substance Abuse Subcommittee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Councillor Michael Prue; Mr. Brian Hyndman; Mr. Lee Zaslofsky; Ms. Joanne Hamill, Manager, Community Councils and Committees; Ms. Helen Smith, Administrator, Nominating Committee; Ms. Fern Deramaix, Research Support, City Clerk's – April 12, 2001)

4.15 Bill S-15, The Tobacco Youth Protection Act.

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 9, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health of Bill S-15, the Tobacco Youth Protection Act seeking endorsement of this bill by the Board of Health and City Council, in view of its potential contribution to Toronto's Comprehensive Tobacco Use Reduction Strategy;

advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health and City Council endorse Bill S-15, the Tobacco Youth Protection Act, and request the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health and all Toronto area Members of Parliament to support passage of Bill S-15 by the House of Commons;
- (2) this report be forwarded to all Boards of Health in Ontario for similar endorsement and advocacy with their federal Members of Parliament; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health unanimously recommended to Council adoption of the foregoing report.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 4)

**4.16 Food Disclosure – Response to Budget Advisory
Committee Motion from April 6, 2001.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 10, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health of implications arising from changing the food premises disclosure system and in particular, the implications of allowing a seven day warning period before posting a yellow “Conditional Pass” notice or eliminating the Conditional Pass entirely; advising that there are no financial implications stemming from this report; and recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) approve an evaluation of the food premises disclosure system to be undertaken following at least one inspection of all high and medium risk premises under the new system;
- (2) ensure that key stakeholders are consulted in the course of this evaluation and the results be reported to the Board of Health by its September 2001 meeting;
- (3) refer this report to the Policy and Finance Committee for information; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to continue to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to:

- (1) evaluate the food premises disclosure system at the end of one year (January 2002) and, in the meantime, report to the Board if, at any time, she considers that adjustments should be made to the food premises disclosure system; **(moved by Councillor Filion)** and
- (2) ensure that key stakeholders are consulted in the course of this evaluation and the results be reported to the Board **(moved by Councillor Prue)**.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.17 Federal Review of Health and Health Services in Canada.

The Board of Health adopted the following motion by Councillor Jones (on behalf of Ms. Fiona Nelson):

“It is recommended that the Board of Health and the Chair of the Board of Health approach Roy Romanow to discuss the pre-eminence of the “Determinants of Health” as the required emphasis in his review of Health and Health Services in Canada, and request that the Toronto Board of Health be permitted to present to him the rationale for significant improvement in the federal funding for programs in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.”

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair, Board of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.18 Jordan Heikamp Inquest.

The Board of Health adopted the following motion by Councillor Jones (on behalf of Ms. Fiona Nelson):

“It is recommended that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to submit a report to the Board of Health on any services and/or program changes necessary to meet the recommendations of the Jordan Heikamp Inquest.”

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

4.19 Road Salt.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to submit a report, directly to Council (for consideration with the report from the Works Committee respecting the use of road salt) on the issue of the toxicity of road salt.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – April 12, 2001)

The Board of Health adjourned its meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Chair