

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting No. 10

Tuesday, November 26, 2001

The Board of Health met on Monday, November 26, 2001 in Committee Room No. 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Ms. Fiona Nelson

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on October 29, 2001, were confirmed.

10.1 The Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto.

The Board of Health, had before it a report (November 13, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, regarding the Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2001; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health refer this report to the Community Services Committee through the Food and Hunger Action Committee for information and appropriate action;
- (2) Toronto Public Health provide information on the Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket to community-based agencies in Toronto that provide food related programs and services in low income communities;
- (3) the Board of Health refer this report to the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies for information and appropriate action; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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

- Sue Cox, Executive Director, Daily Bread Food Bank and on behalf of Hunger Watch, and submitted "Sacrificing the Poor: How Governments Threaten the Lives of Low-Income People to Cut Costs", published by the Daily Bread Food Bank; and
- Debbie Field, Executive Director, Food Share and Toronto Food Policy Council Community Member.

Councillor Bussin requested the Medical Officer of Health to forward to Community Services Committee, for consideration with this report, a chart showing the 66 food items referred to in the report.

The Board of Health unanimously amended and adopted the aforementioned report and, in so doing:

- (A) referred this report to:
 - (1) the Community Services Committee through the Food and Hunger Action Committee for information and appropriate action;

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- (2) the Toronto Food Policy Council for information and appropriate action;
 - (3) Health Units in Ontario with a request that they forward their comments to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care;
 - (4) the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies for information and appropriate action; **(moved by Councillor Jones)**
- (B) requested Toronto Public Health to provide information on the Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket to community-based agencies in Toronto that provide food related programs and services in low income communities; **(moved by Councillor Jones)**
- (C) expressed to the Minister of Finance the Board's concern about the increased cost of the nutritious food basket in Toronto and recommended the adoption of policies to provide low-income families with the resources needed to purchase safe, affordable, nutritious food; **(moved by Mr. Hyndman)** and
- (D) authorized and directed the appropriate City officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto. **(moved by Councillor Jones)**

(Ontario Public Health Association; Association of Local Public Health Agencies; Toronto Food Policy Council; Minister of Finance; Health Units in Ontario; Food and Hunger Action Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Administrator, Community Services Committee; Interested Persons – November 27, 2001)

10.2 Heart Health.

The Board of Health had before it a copy of the report “Inequality Is Bad for Our Hearts – Why Low Income and Social Exclusion are Major Causes of Heart Disease in Canada” commissioned by the North York Heart Health Network.

Dr. Dennis Raphael Associate Professor, School of Health Policy and Management of Atkinson Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, York University, and author of the aforementioned report, gave a brief presentation and submitted a written brief.

On motion by Dr. Pellizzari, the Board of Health received, with thanks, Dr. Raphael’s report and presentation for information and, further, requested the Medical Officer of Health to take into consideration the evidence and recommendations contained in the report “Inequality is Bad for Our Hearts” when preparing her “State of the City’s Health” report for 2002.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services;
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari – November 27, 2001)

10.3 Response to a Tuberculosis (TB) Outbreak: A Case Study.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 15, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information about a recent tuberculosis (TB) outbreak in a men’s shelter in Toronto; advising that the 2001 TB Prevention and Control Program budget is \$3.4 million gross / \$1.7 million net; an additional 19 positions were approved by City Council without funding in 2001; and, further, a request for full program funding is included in the 2002 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget submission, which would bring the annualized program budget to \$4.5 million gross / \$2.2 million net; recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health forward this report to the Community Services Committee for information; and
- (2) the appropriate city officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Associate Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health unanimously adopted the aforementioned

report and forwarded same to the Community Services Committee for information in accordance with Recommendation No. (1).

(Community Services Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health;
Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – November 27, 2001)

10.4 Implementation of the Contingency Plan for the Prevention And Control of the West Nile Virus (WNV).

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (October 31, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, and Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, addressed to the Board of Health, Economic Development and Parks Committee and the Works Committee, seeking approval for implementation of the Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Control of the West Nile Virus; advising of the gross budget enhancements required to implement Option (b) of the Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Control of the West Nile Virus for 2002; and recommending that:

- (1) subject to the receipt of full provincial funding, City Council endorse, in principle, the implementation of the Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Control of the West Nile Virus as outlined in Option (a);
- (2) City Council request the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Health and Long-term Care, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to fully fund the implementation of the Contingency Plan for the Prevention and Control of the West Nile Virus as outlined in Option (a) for a total estimated cost of \$1,634,000 in 2002;
- (3) in the event that full provincial funding is not approved, City Council endorse, in principle, Option (b);
- (4) City Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to approve contingency expenditures for mosquito control, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health;
- (5) the Board of Health, Economic Development and Parks Committee, and Works Committee refer this report to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration in the 2002 Operating Budget process; and
- (6) 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 the following communications:

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- (i) (November 14, 2001) from the City Clerk, Works Committee, advising that the Works Committee, at its meeting on November, 14, 2001, recommended adoption of the joint report (October 31, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, subject to deleting Recommendation No. (3); and
- (ii) (November 19, 2001) from the City Clerk, Economic Development and Parks Committee, advising that the Economic Development and Parks Committee, at its meeting on November 19, 2001, recommended adoption of the joint report (October 31, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; and further that upon approval by Council, the report be referred to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration during the 2002 Operating Budget Process.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Bussin Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health recommended to Council adoption of the aforementioned report (October 31, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 8)

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

10.5 World Youth Conference and Papal Visit in 2002.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 12, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information to the Board of Health on the impacts of the World Youth Day (WYD) 2002 Conference and Papal visit and including recommendations to facilitate the successful implementation of the event; advising of financial implications; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the Toronto Public Health World Youth Day 2002 budget request;
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration during the 2002 operating budget process; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report and forwarded same to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration during the 2002 operating budget process in accordance with Recommendation No. (2).

(Budget Advisory Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health;
Jane Speakman, Legal Services – November 27, 2001)

10.6 2002 Public Health Operating Budget Submission.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the following proposals for budget expansion in 2002:
 - (a) full funding for the annualization of initiatives approved by City Council in 2001 as well as corporately derived economic factors and other base budget changes \$2.54 million (gross) / \$1.73 million (net);
 - (b) reduction of gapping from 5.6% in 2001 to 3.0% in 2002 \$2.48 million (gross) / \$1.34 million (net);
 - (c) initiatives recommended by the Children and Youth Action Committee (CYAC) for early childhood parenting and prenatal group education \$1.24 million (gross) / \$622.5 thousand (net);
 - (d) partial backfilling of the staff positions required for development of the Community Nursing and Customer Management System \$875.0 thousand (gross) / \$437.5 thousand (net);
 - (e) full funding of initiatives approved by City Council in 2001 without funding, including TB Expansion Phase 1 \$1.05 million (gross) / 526.8 thousand (net), Vulnerable Adults and Seniors \$640.2 thousand (gross) / \$320.1 thousand (net), and Environmental Plan: Air Quality \$65.0 thousand (gross) / \$32.5 thousand (net);
 - (f) public consultation on pesticide reduction \$51.8 thousand (gross) / \$25.9 thousand (net);

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- (g) partial backfilling of the staff positions required to provide public health services in support of World Youth Day \$166.6 thousand (gross) / \$83.3 thousand (net);
 - (h) enhancement of 100% provincial funding for Preschool Speech and Language Services and Infant Hearing Screening \$351.9 thousand (gross) / \$0 (net); and
 - (i) funding of West Nile Virus control \$103.9 thousand (gross) / \$51.9 thousand (net);
- (2) the Board of Health refer the proposed 2002 Public Health Operating Budget to a Special Meeting of the Board of Health on January 7, 2002 for public deputations and subsequent submission of the Board of Health's decisions to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration;
 - (3) the Board of Health endorse the service level reduction options prepared by the Medical Officer of Health for submission to the Budget Advisory Committee; and
 - (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

Brian Mackay declared an interest in that portion of the operating budget relating to Public Health dental services and grants in that he is a member of LAMP Community Health Centre.

Lee Zaslofsky declared an interest in that portion of the operating budget relating to Public Health grants in that he is a member of the Board of the Hassle Free Clinic.

Councillor Sutherland and Councillor Holyday were present during discussion of this matter.

The Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation.

Councillor Jones requested the Board's Budget Committee to review the 2002 Budget after approval by Council and report to the Board as appropriate.

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

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health referred the proposed 2002 Public Health Operating Budget to a Special Meeting of the Board of Health to be held on January 7, 2002 for public deputations and subsequent submission of the Board

of Health's decisions to the Budget Advisory Committee for consideration.

(Board of Health; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Secretary, Board of Health Budget Committee; Councillor Sutherland; Councillor Holyday; Interested Persons – November 27, 2001)

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

10.7 Condition Critical: Fixing Our Smog Warning System – Summary Report.

The Board of Health had before it a report (October 15, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing a brief summary of the report entitled "Condition Critical: Fixing Our Smog Warning System" and seeking Board approval of the recommendations based on that report; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) request that the Ontario Minister of the Environment improve the Air Quality Index (AQI) and smog advisory notification system as set out in the report *Condition Critical: Fixing our Smog Warning System* by:
 - (a) restructuring the AQI system to make it a more accurate indicator of health concerns by:
 - (i) adding fine particulates (PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5}) to the mix of pollutants used to calculate the AQI;
 - (ii) updating the Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC) for nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide to reflect current research on the human health effects associated with these air pollutants; and
 - (iii) developing a new formula to calculate AQI values that takes into account the total pollutant contributions for each given hour;
 - (b) restructuring the AQI messaging system by:
 - (i) emphasizing that the AQI is a continuous scale in which health risk increases as the AQI number increases;
 - (ii) re-naming "Air Quality Advisories" as "Smog Alerts" to increase public understanding that serious air pollution episodes are occurring;

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- (iii) discontinuing the practice of describing air quality as “good” or “very good” when the AQI is less than 32;
 - (iv) replacing the current AQI classifications (very good, good, moderate, poor and very poor) with more appropriate classifications (background, low, medium, high and smog alert) by May 2002;
 - (v) continuing to forecast and trigger “air quality advisories” or “smog alerts” when some predetermined AQI value (such as a regulatory standard) is exceeded; and
 - (vi) developing a special messaging system that alerts sensitive populations (such as the elderly, children and those with respiratory and cardiac problems) to AQI values that pose increased health risks; and
- (c) accelerating the implementation of province-wide continuous monitoring of fine particulates (PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5});
- (2) request that the Government of Ontario ensure that sufficient resources are made available to the Ministry of the Environment to implement continuous monitoring of fine particulates across the province, and to improve the Air Quality Index (AQI) as outlined in recommendation 1;
 - (3) request that the federal and provincial Ministers of Health provide the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment with updated information on the adverse health effects anticipated at different Air Quality Index (AQI) values based on current national and international health studies;
 - (4) request that the federal Minister of the Environment ensure that the proposed new national Air Quality Index (AQI) for Canada includes fine particulates and encompasses a health effects warning system that accurately conveys the health risk associated with AQI values for both the general population and more sensitive sub-populations;
 - (5) convey to the federal and provincial Ministers of the Environment that the Toronto Medical Officer of Health has offered to assist in the review of improved health messaging associated with the Air Quality Index (AQI);
 - (6) forward this report to the GTA Clean Air Council, all health units in Ontario, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Canadian Public Health Association; the Canadian, Ontario and New Brunswick Lung Associations; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their information and action as appropriate; and

- (7) request that 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 (November 23, 2001) from Helen Riley, Feet on the Street, in support of the recommendations of the Medical Officer of Health.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Bussin Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Premier Harris; Federal Minister of Health; Provincial Minister of Health; Provincial Minister of Environment; Federal Minister of Environment; Health Units in Ontario; Ontario Public Health Association; Canadian Public Health Association; Canadian Lung Association; Ontario Lung Association; New Brunswick Lung Association; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Federation of Canadian Municipalities; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – November 30, 2001)

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

10.8 Submission to the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada.

As a report on the above-noted item was not available, the matter was deferred to the next regular meeting of the Board of Health scheduled to be held on January 28, 2002.

10.9 Early Years Challenge Fund and Community Coordinator Initiative.

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari and Nancy Peters each declared an interest in this matter, in that they work for agencies who have applied for funding.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 1, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting back to the Board of Health on the status of the planning process related to the Early Years Challenge Fund and Community Coordinator initiative; advising that there are no direct financial implications for the City as this initiative is 100 percent funded through the Ministry of Community and Social Services; and further, that Provincial funding for this initiative is currently committed until March 31, 2002; and recommending that this report be received for information.

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

10.10 Copyright and Trademark Issues Related to the “Kids Have Stress Too!” Campaign.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 12, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, requesting the City of Toronto to assign whatever copyright and trademark interests it may have on the Kids Have Stress Too! Program to the Psychology Foundation; advising that the Psychology Foundation will grant the City a royalty free license to use and distribute the program materials; that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to:

- (a) assign whatever copyright the City may have in the Kids Have Stress Too! education materials to the Psychology Foundation; and
- (b) assign whatever right, title and interest the City may have in the Kids Have Stress Too! trademark to the Psychology Foundation;

subject to the Psychology Foundation granting the City a royalty free licence to use and distribute the Kids Have Stress Too! education materials.

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

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 8)

10.11 Appointments to the Six Local Health Committees.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 13, 2001) from Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Chair, Nominating Subcommittee, recommending that:

- (1) the citizens listed in Appendix A, forwarded to members of the Board of Health under confidential cover, be appointed to the six Local Health Committees for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2003 and until their successors are appointed; and further, that, in accordance with the Municipal Act, discussion pertaining to the individuals named therein be held in-camera, having regard that the subject matter relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Bussin Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Dr. Pellizzari, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report and, in so doing, appointed the following to the six local Health Committees for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2003 and until their successors are appointed:

Scarborough Local Health Committee

Carvel Burrell
Dianne Cairney
Richard DeGaetano
Dean Maxwell
Linda J. Napier
Niloy Sen
Ratnes Sanmuganathan
Heidi Sin
Bibi Saman

Toronto East York Local Health Committee

James Armstrong
Lea Caragata
Aldo Gatti
Marvin Greenberg
Georgette Gregory, CSJ
Jeanne Jabanoski
Carole O'Beirne
Maria Sarte
Yuen Hing Tse
Jennifer Yee
Evadne Wilkinson

Midtown Local Health Committee

Catherine Brooks
Gordon Coleman
Serena Coy
Maria Kelleher
Anita Sloane Lapidus
Dr. Christopher J. Morgan
Pat Taylor
Marcia Visser

Humber York Local Health Committee

Dennis Brooks
Linda Coltman
Krissa Fay
Mary Lou Kerr
Mark Nakamura
Cathy Paul
Stephanie Riley
Elizabeth Yohannan

North York Local Health Committee

Madha Ali
Donna Buck
Davod Dizgah
Norma Goodman
Dr. Jerry Green
Monita L. Persaud
Gordon L. Robertson
Alex G. Yuile

Etobicoke Local Health Committee

Shoba Adore
Stephanie G. Barnett
Brenda Caldwell
Heather Conboy
Mohamed Gilao
Betty Lou Lynn
Betty E.A. Petrich
Dr. Tamara Alexandra Wallington-Chouinard

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Maria Herrera, Manager, Urban Issues – November 27, 2001)

10.12 South Region Animal Centre at Exhibition Place.

The Board of Health had before it a report (November 23, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, seeking Board of Health endorsement of the recommendation that City Council authorize the use of a portion of a City-owned facility (the Horse Palace at Exhibition Place) for the purpose of establishing a South Region Animal Centre; advising of financial implications; and recommending that:

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- (1) the Board of Health recommend that City Council authorize the use of a portion of the Horse Palace on the Exhibition Place grounds for the purposes of a South Region Animal Centre, including field services, shelter and adoption facilities, subject to terms and conditions approved by the Exhibition Place Board of Governors and the City;
- (2) this matter be dealt with by City Council as a time-sensitive item at its next meeting on December 4, 5 and 6, 2001;
- (3) this report be forwarded by the Board of Health Administrator to the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place for consideration at their November 30, 2001 meeting; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (November 16, 2001) from Councillor Sutherland, addressed to the Mayor, Members of Council and the Board of Health, regarding the Toronto Humane Society.

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

- Tim Trow, President, Toronto Humane Society; and
- Councillor Paul Sutherland, Ward 33.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Bussin Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health:

(A) recommended to Council:

- (1) that City Council authorize the use of a portion of the Horse Palace on the Exhibition Place grounds for the purposes of a South Region Animal Centre, including field services, shelter and adoption facilities, subject to terms and conditions approved by the Exhibition Place Board of Governors and the City;

- (2) this matter be dealt with by City Council as a time-sensitive item at its next meeting on December 4, 5 and 6, 2001; and
 - (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto; and
- (B) directed the Board of Health Secretary to forward a copy of this report to the Board of Governors of Exhibition Place for consideration at its meeting on November 30, 2001.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 8)

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

The Board of Health adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Chair