

# TORONTO STAFF REPORT

---

August 29, 2003

To: Board of Health  
From: Dr. Sheela V. Basrur, Medical Officer of Health  
Subject: Proposed Changes to Local Health Committees

Purpose:

To report on proposed changes to the number and boundaries of local health committees based on the changes to community councils as approved by City Council in July 2003.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health approve the reduction of local health committees from six to four and change the boundaries to conform with the changes to community councils as approved by City Council in July 2003; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

At the May 28, 2001 meeting, the Board of Health approved the establishment of six local health committees as sub-committees of the Board. The number and boundaries of local health committees were to conform to the existing six community councils. At its meeting of July 22-24, 2003, City Council adopted Clause No. (1) of Report No. (7) of the Policy and Finance

Committee which reduced the number of community councils from six to four and changed their boundaries.

Comments:

The new community council boundaries will take effect December 1, 2003 with the new term of Council. The interim names, wards and meeting locations are outlined below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Community Councils Effective December 1,2003

Interim Name	Wards	Meeting Location
Toronto West Community Council	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,11,12,13,14	Etobicoke Civic Centre
Toronto North Community Council	8,9,10,15,16,23,24,25,26,33,34	North York Civic Centre
Toronto South Community Council	17,18,19,20,21,22,27,28,29,30,31,32	City Hall
Toronto East Community Council	35,36,37,38,39,41,41,42,43,44	Scarborough Civic Centre

Since the number and boundaries of local health committees were based on the configuration of community councils, the Board of Health needs to review the number and boundaries of the local health committees. The map of the community council boundaries is outlined in Appendix 2.

Recruitment for citizen members of the Board of Health will begin this fall. Members are nominated based on the Citizen Selection Criteria for the Board of Health which was approved by City Council on July 29-31, 1998 (see Appendix 1). Since selection of citizen members ensures representation from each of the local health committee area, reducing the number of local health committees will mean that four of the seven citizen members will need to represent local health committee areas. Two members will be members-at-large and one will be a school board representative, which for this term will be the Toronto District School Board.

An evaluation of the local health committees is currently underway. The evaluation is looking at several components including the terms of reference, roles and responsibilities, resources required, recruitment, membership and participation, orientation and ongoing community capacity building. These findings will be brought to the Board of Health in early 2004.

Conclusions:

The number and boundaries of the local health committees will need to conform to the changes to community councils approved by City Council at its July 22-24, 2003 meeting. This means that the number of local health committees will go from six to four. Four of the seven citizen Board of Health members will represent local health committee areas, two will be members at large and one will represent the Toronto District School Board for this term. Citizen members

will be appointed based on the Council approved Citizen Selection Criteria for the Board of Health.

Contact:

Maria Herrera  
Manager, Urban Issues  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-338-7962  
Fax: 416-392-1482  
Email: mherrera@toronto.ca

Liz Janzen  
Director, South Region  
Toronto Public Health  
Tel: 416-392-7458  
Fax: 416-392-0713  
Email: ljanzen@toronto.ca

Dr. Sheela V. Basrur  
Medical Officer of Health

List of Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Citizen Selection Criteria  
Appendix 2 - Community Council Boundaries effective December 1, 2003

Appendix 1  
Board of Health  
Citizen Selection Criteria  
(Adopted by Toronto City Council on July 29-31, 1998)

Potential citizen members of the Toronto Board of Health should demonstrate the following:

- (a) residence within the designated boundaries of the City of Toronto, with particular attention to be paid to geographical diversity;
- (b) a reflection of the demographic profile of the City, including gender balance, ability in languages other than English, populations representing ethno-racial and/or cultural groups, disability, sexual orientation;
- (c) interest and/or background in issues affecting municipal public health programs and services;
- (d) interest and /or skills in planning and policy development leading to a comprehensive municipal public health agenda that meets local community needs’;
- (e) experience in organizational activities, such as committees, non-profit groups, voluntary societies, occupational associations;
- (f) skills in leadership and management and/or experience in administration and budget development;
- (g) demonstrated skills in conflict management, negotiation and mediation; and
- (h) ability to make a commitment to monthly involvement in Board of Health meetings and related committee or other activities.

Applicants should be screened with due regard to the above criteria and preference given to candidates who meet more than one criteria. The final slate should represent geographical diversity in the City, ethno-racial diversity, and a broad range of interests in public health.