

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting 6

September 20, 2004

The Board of Health met on Monday, September 20, 2004 in Committee Room No. 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor John Filion, Chair	x
Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher	x
Ms. Helen Chan	
Councillor Janet Davis	x
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Vice-Chair	x
Mr. Brian Hyndman	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Councillor Joe Mihevc	x
Ms. Fiona Nelson	x
Ms. Nancy Peters	x
Councillor Karen Stintz	
Councillor Michael Thompson	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x

Councillor Filion in the Chair.

Staff Recognition

The Chair introduced Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health. A presentation was made to Dr. Barbara Yaffe, in appreciation for her contributions during her term as Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Fiona Nelson, the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on July 12, 2004 were confirmed.

6.1 Food and Nutrition Issues in the City of Toronto

The Board of Health considered a report (September 3, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, providing an overview of critical food and nutrition issues in the City

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of Toronto as well as Toronto Public Health strategies described in five accompanying Board of Health reports; advising that these reports highlight the need for a comprehensive food and nutrition strategy to guide Toronto Public Health programs and services and call for similar initiatives at the Provincial and Federal levels; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a PowerPoint presentation.

The following persons addressed the Board of Health:

- Debbie Field, Executive Director, FoodShare;
- Catherine Moraes, Senior Manager, Business Development, Toronto District School Board;
- Colleen Logue, Manager, Nutrition Resource Centre;
- Ian MacKenzie, Executive Vice President, The Ontario Produce Marketing Association;
- Carol Knowlton-Dority;
- Sue Cox, Executive Director, Daily Bread Food Bank, with a submission;
- Nick Saul, Executive Director, The Stop Community Food Centre, with a submission;
- Terri Adams, Givins/Shaw Public School; and
- Susan Butler, Canadian Council for Student Nutrition.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc. the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health early in 2005, on the follow-up to the reports listed below:

- (a) Ontario Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Survey – Toronto Results;
- (b) The Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2004;
- (c) Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians;
- (d) Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health “Call to Action:
Creating a Health School Nutrition Environment; and
- (e) 2004/2005 Student Nutrition Programs Service Subsidies;

with a focused action plan, such plan to:

- (1) be developed in consultation with other stakeholders;
- (2) prioritize for impact;
- (3) pay particular attention to the nutritional needs of lower income residents;
- (4) identify gaps in resources and structures necessary to implement change; and
- (5) outline the cost implications of action strategies.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Interested Persons – September 24, 2004)

6.1a Ontario Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Survey – Toronto Results

The Board of Health considered a report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, providing findings of the Ontario Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Survey of the Toronto population and highlighting the findings related to vegetable and fruit consumption, Body Mass Index (BMI) and physical activity levels; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health request the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to develop a comprehensive strategy focusing on healthy eating and the promotion of vegetable and fruit consumption, healthy weights and physical activity, consistent with World Health Organization principles, comparable to the scope of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, and including sufficient resources; and
- (2) the Board of Health request Health Canada to develop a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of vegetable and fruit consumption, healthy weights and physical activity in Canada, consistent with World Health Organization principles and with sufficient resources; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Fiona Nelson, the Board of Health adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

(Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; c. Medical Officer of Health, Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Interested Persons – September 22, 2004)

6.1b The Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2004

The Board of Health considered a report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, providing information on the Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto for 2004; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health advocate to the Government of Ontario to significantly increase social assistance rates to compensate for increases in the costs of shelter, food, transportation and other basic needs for Ontario Works recipients living in Toronto;
- (2) the Board of Health refer this report to the Community Services Committee, through the Food and Hunger Action Committee, with a request that they renew

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their efforts to institute a permanent community grants stream to support neighborhood-based food security initiatives;

- (3) the Board of Health request that the Medical Officer of Health work with the Commissioner of Urban Development Services to address challenges to food access faced by people in neighbourhoods where there is no pedestrian access to food retail outlets offering affordable, nutritious and culturally acceptable foods;
- (4) Toronto Public Health continue to provide information on the Cost of Nutritious Food Basket to community-based agencies in Toronto that provide food/nutrition programs and services in low income communities and to encourage other city divisions to make use of this information; and
- (5) the appropriate city officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Brian Hyndman, the Board of Health:

- A adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report dated September 2, 2004, from the Acting Medical Officer of Health;
- B requested the Toronto Food Policy Council to conduct a study on the gaps in access to food relief and food security programs in Toronto; and
- C advocates to the Government of Ontario to increase the minimum wage and adopt other support programs that provide low-income working people with access to affordable nutritious food.

(Premier of Ontario; Toronto Food Policy Council; Food and Hunger Action Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Commissioner of Urban Development Services; Administrator, Community Services Committee; Interested Persons – September 22, 2004)

6.1c Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians

The Board of Health considered a report (September 1, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health about proposed changes to Health Canada's Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians, outlining Toronto Public Health's response to Health Canada regarding the proposed changes; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health request Health Canada to:

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- (a) rescind the draft Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians, and prepare a policy statement indicating that the Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians (1990) have been replaced by the Academy of Sciences' Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) reports;
 - (b) develop a comprehensive, user-friendly summary of the DRI reports which include a Canadian interpretation of the DRIs and position the DRIs in the context of Canadian dietary patterns;
 - (c) provide an interpretation and application of the DRIs by way of revised key messages (Canada's Guidelines for Healthy Eating) and a revised food guide (Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating) for Canadians;
- (2) the Board of Health communicate to the Federal Minister of Health its support for the adoption of the Academy of Sciences' Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) reports as the basis for Nutrition Recommendations for Canadians; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Brian MacKay, the Board of Health:

- A adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 1, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health; and
- B requested Health Canada to:
 - (a) adopt an upper limit (UL) of 10 percent of daily energy intake for saturated fatty acids;
 - (b) place a note on any Health Canada nutrition documents stating that some foods have been determined to pose a health threat because of mercury and other contaminants and where current safe consumption levels can be found; and
- C directed that this report and the attachments be forwarded to all Ontario Boards of Health, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

(Minister of Health; Ontario Boards of Health; Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister; Canadian Public Health Association; Association of Local Public Health Agencies; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – September 24, 2004)

6.1d Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health “Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment”

The Board of Health considered a report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, soliciting the Board of Health's endorsement of recommendations to support the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health's "Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment"; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health request that the Ontario Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Education, and Children and Youth Services establish an Interministerial Committee on School Nutrition to coordinate consultations with key stakeholders in order to identify strategies for implementing the recommendations outlined in the “Call to Action”;
- (2) the Board of Health request that the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest (French Public School Board) and le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud (French Catholic School Board) engage in a consultation process with key stakeholders, staff, students, and local agencies, including Toronto Public Health, regarding implementation of the “Call to Action” recommendations within Toronto schools;
- (3) the Board of Health commend the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health for proposing a framework to address the issue of healthy school nutrition with a view to developing detailed and consistent nutrition standards for school nutrition programs in the province; and
- (4) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Board of Health adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 2, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, and:

- (1) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health on student nutrition in Toronto:
 - (a) to assess the school environment in terms of healthy food choices:
 - (i) the extent of fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in snack, lunch and cafeteria programs in elementary, middle and secondary schools;
 - (ii) the extent of overall healthy food choices in menu planning in snack, lunch and cafeteria programs in

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elementary, middle and secondary schools; and in all City-owned/operated facilities and institutions;

- (iii) the increased cost to maintain and expand the salad bar program in 2005 in elementary, middle and secondary schools with the intention of establishing a salad bar in every City ward;
 - (b) on the feasibility of the City of Toronto undertaking to restrict access to its vending machines during school days in shared-use facilities; and
 - (c) on the feasibility of phasing out pop in all City of Toronto vending machines to be replaced with water, milk and juice;
- (2) requested the Toronto District School Board to assist the City to maximize funding dollars by requiring only water, 100 percent juice, and milk in vending machines in all Toronto schools that receive nutrition funding from the City of Toronto;
 - (3) paid tribute to the hundreds of parent coordinators and community volunteers who deliver nutrition programs in Toronto;
 - (4) requested Toronto Public Health staff to initiate meetings with parents and school councils, cafeteria operators and school administrators to review "Call to Action: Creating Healthy School Nutrition Environment", with the intention of improving the menus as suggested in "Call to Action: Creating Healthy School Nutrition Environment", and report back to the Board of Health in 2005;
 - (5) requested the provincial government to review and minimize the proportion of administrative costs in the total program dollars that contribute to the improved nutritional quality of student nutrition programs; and
 - (6) adopted the following Resolution submitted by Councillor Davis:

"WHEREAS the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, "Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment", identifies that appropriate facilities and adequate time for eating are essential elements of a healthy school nutrition environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health request:

- (a) the provincial government to consider amending the provincial funding formula for schools to recognize the need for dedicated, appropriate facilities for lunch programs; and
- (b) school boards in Toronto to consider allocating additional funding in this year's budget to ensure adequate staffing levels for safe, unhurried school lunch programs."

(Premier of Ontario; Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Minister of Education; Minister of Children Services; Toronto District School Board; Toronto Catholic District School Board; le Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest; le Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud; Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – September 24, 2004)

6.1e 2004/2005 Student Nutrition Programs Service Subsidies

The Board of Health considered a report (September 7, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, requesting that the Board of Health adopt the recommendations of the Student Nutrition Program Steering Committee regarding the 2004/2005 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health recommend that City Council execute agreements which includes an additional \$500,000.00 one time funding for a total of \$2,499,340.00 with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$2,278,580.58) and the Metropolitan Toronto Catholic Education Foundation (\$220,759.42) to administer the allocation of service subsidies to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;
- (2) authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the execution of agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Metropolitan Toronto Catholic Education Foundation on behalf of the City; and
- (3) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Brian MacKay declared an interest in this matter because he is a member of the Board of the LAMP Community Health Centre.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations

Section of the report (September 7, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

(Report 5, Clause 1)

6.2 Homeless Youth with Concurrent Disorders in Toronto

The Board of Health considered a report (September 1, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, regarding the work to date of the Homeless Youth with Concurrent Disorders Work Group; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the Youth Safe House model to meet the needs of homeless youth with concurrent disorders in Toronto;
- (2) the Board of Health forward this report for information to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, requesting that the Ministries collaborate to address the needs of homeless youth with concurrent disorders and provide funding for the proposed Youth Safe House pilot project; and
- (3) the Board of Health forward this report to Community Services Committee for information
- (4) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Board of Health adopted the staff recommendations contained in the Recommendations Section of the report (September 1, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

(Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Minister of Children Services; Community Services Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services – September 24, 2004)

6.3 Use of Toronto Transit Commission Land for Dog Walking

The Board of Health considered a report (August 24, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health, requesting that approval be granted to enter into an agreement with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to allow access by Animal Services staff and volunteers at the East Region Animal Centre to walk adoption dogs on leash on the adjacent TTC property; and recommending that:

- (1) the City of Toronto enter into an agreement with the Toronto Transit Commission to permit Toronto Animal Services staff and volunteers to walk dogs owned by

the City of Toronto Animal Services on the Toronto Transit Commission property and the agreement be executed by the Medical Officer of Health;

- (2) the agreement referred to in Recommendation 1 be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (3) this report be referred to the Toronto Transit Commission; and
- (4) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health recommended that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (August 24, 2004) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

(Report 5, Clause 2)

6.4 If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto

The Board of Health considered a communication (July 8, 2004) from Policy and Finance Committee, advising that the Committee, on July 8, 2004, after considering the report "If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto" among other things, referred the recommendation for a review of low-income women's experiences with health services elaborated in the report "If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto" to the Board of Health for consideration as a new initiative in the Department of Public Health's 2005 workplan and operating budget.

On motion by Brian Hyndman, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health, to consult with the Toronto District Health Council and the author of the report "If Low Income Women of Colour Counted in Toronto" on the development and review of the experiences of low-income women of colour with health services in Toronto and report on the progress made to the Board of Health on November 22, 2004.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Administrator, Policy and Finance Committee – September 24, 2004)

6.5 Appointment of Citizen Members to the Board of Health

The Board of Health considered a communication (September 16, 2004) from the Chair, Board of Health Nominating Subcommittee respecting Appointment of Citizen Members to the Board of Health; and recommending that the Board of Health recommend to the Nominating Committee:

1. that City Council adopt the recommendations contained in the confidential Appendix A to this letter; and
2. discussions about the individuals named in the confidential Appendix A be held in-camera, in accordance with the Municipal Act, because the subject relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health recessed to meet in camera to consider the confidential Appendix A, in accordance with the Municipal Act, because the subject related to personal matters about identifiable individuals.

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Board of Health recommended to the Nominating Committee that City Council adopt the Nominating Subcommittee recommendations in the Recommendations Section in the communication (September 16, 2004) from the Chair of the Board of Health Nominating Subcommittee.

(Nominating Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health; Jane Speakman, Legal Services – September 21, 2004)

6.6 Strategies to protect Toronto residents from vicious dog attacks

The Board of Health considered a communication (August 31, 2004) from Councillor Paula Fletcher respecting Taking Action on Vicious Dog Attacks.

The Board of Health also considered a resolution (September 20, 2004) submitted by Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin, requesting a report on amending the Municipal Code Chapter 349, Animals, to require the muzzling of pit bulls.

On motion by Councillor Fletcher, the Board of Health:

A adopted the following Resolution submitted by Councillor Filion:

“WHEREAS there have been a number of serious injuries caused by dog attacks recently in the City of Toronto, resulting in growing public concern; and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto is responsible for Animal Care and Control Services and the By-law respecting Animals; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is reviewing its legal and policy options for the prevention of vicious dog attacks; and

WHEREAS there is considerable controversy regarding the appropriate strategies to protect Toronto residents from vicious dog attacks,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health by its November meeting, with recommendations on measures that should be taken by the City of Toronto to prevent vicious dog attacks; this report should include the following:

- (i) a review of how other jurisdictions in Canada and elsewhere have addressed the issue of vicious dog attacks;
- (ii) a review of the recommendations of recent inquests into fatalities due to dog attacks;
- (iii) a review of those aspects of the By-law respecting Animals and the Dog Owners' Liability Act that pertain to vicious dog attacks;
- (iv) the advantages and disadvantages of policy options including breed-specific legislation, licensing measures, muzzling requirements, mandatory training for owners, and any other measures which may be both practical and effective;

the report should be developed with input from key stakeholders including but not limited to: the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Canadian Safety Council, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Etobicoke Humane Society, Toronto Humane Society, Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Animal Alliance of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and persons with professional expertise in animal behaviour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a three-member subcommittee led by the Vice-Chair of the Board of Health be established to liaise with the Medical Officer of Health and staff of Toronto Public Health on the report, and to advise on the extent and nature of any public consultation required.”; and

- B Appointed Board of Health Vice-Chair, Councillor Paula Fletcher, as Chair; Councillor Michael Thompson; and Trustee Sheila Carey-Meagher to the subcommittee.

(Medical Officer of Health; c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Councillor Paula Fletcher; Councillor Michael Thompson; Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher; Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin – September 24, 2004)

7. Organizational Review of Family Health and Healthy Lifestyles – Toronto Public Health

The Board of Health received a verbal update report from the Medical Officer of Health about a meeting with the Toronto Public Health Executive Management Team and representatives of CUPE Local 79 about the organizational review of the Family Health and Healthy Lifestyles division.

The Board of Health recessed to meet in camera at 4:35 p.m.
The Board of Health resumed in public session at 4:55 p.m.

The Board of Health adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Chair