

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
AGENDA  
MEETING 2**

**Date of Meeting:** February 27, 2006  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Committee Room 1  
City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

**Enquiry:** Francine Adamo  
Secretary  
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If the Board of Health wishes to meet in-camera (privately) a motion must be made to do so, and the reason given (*Municipal Act, 2001*).

Declarations of Interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

Confirmation of Minutes – January 19, 2006

Speakers/Presentations: A complete list will be distributed at the meeting.

Communications/Reports:

**1. The Health of Toronto's Young Children: First Two Reports**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health, that "The Health of Toronto's Young Children" is a series of reports that provide the most current available information on the health of Toronto's children from birth to age six. These first two reports introduce the series by setting the context and describing birth outcomes and health status in the first year of life.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health request the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to provide the required support for the Niday Perinatal database, to ensure that the database captures all births in the Province of Ontario, that access to this data is provided to public health units, and that indicators are developed which measure determinants and outcomes relevant to public health;
- (2) the Board of Health request the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop standard indicators for monitoring breastfeeding initiation, duration, exclusive breastfeeding, and introduction of other foods during infancy to aid in promoting healthy infant feeding at the national, provincial, and local levels;
- (3) the Board of Health request the Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure the reorganized Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion retain strong expertise and accountability in the mandated areas of reproductive and child health, including monitoring of birth outcomes and infant health status;
- (4) the Medical Officer of Health collaborate with key stakeholders to further investigate disparities in low birth weight (LBW) across Toronto, enhance monitoring and reporting of disparities in LBW, and further develop strategies to address the disparities;
- (5) the Medical Officer of Health report back to the Board of Health on the health impacts of child poverty and measures to mitigate those impacts;
- (6) the Board of Health forward this report to the following key stakeholders for information: Toronto Children's Services, Toronto Best Start Network, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, Child Health Network, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Ontario Public Health Association, Ontario Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, and Children and Youth, and Public Health Agency of Canada;
- (7) the Board of Health forward this report to the Community Services Committee; and
- (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

## **2. The Link Between Periodontal Disease and Adverse Birth Outcomes**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health of current findings pertaining to the potential link between periodontal disease and adverse birth outcomes with a view to identifying possible public health strategies.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Toronto Public Health continue to monitor research on the link between periodontal health and adverse birth outcomes;
- (2) Toronto Public Health collaborate with the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario multidisciplinary task force to inform the public and health professionals about the evidence to date regarding the link between periodontal disease and adverse birth outcomes;
- (3) Toronto Public Health include oral hygiene instructions in prenatal education sessions and provide oral health kits and information packages to high risk pregnant women and teens;
- (4) the Board of Health advocate to the Community Services Committee and the Province of Ontario that pregnant women eligible for social assistance be entitled to receive basic dental services, instead of only emergency dental services as currently offered, to improve oral health and contribute to healthy birth outcomes;
- (5) this report to be forwarded to the Community Services Committee and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take necessary action to give effect thereto.

### **3. Food Security: Implications for Early Years Populations**

Report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting on issues related to food security and Toronto children during the early years and to identify strategic actions for addressing the issues.

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health request the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to establish a national food security monitoring system, as identified in “Canada’s Action Plan for Food Security”;
- (2) the Board of Health request the Minister of Children and Youth Services to integrate food security activities into Ontario’s Best Start strategy, including activities that promote access to adequate, safe and nutritious foods that respect cultural traditions;

- (3) the Board of Health request that the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health) support research on:
  - (a) the implications of exposure to environmental contaminants in food for early years populations; and,
  - (b) the impact of food insecurity on the health of early years populations, including its impact on social development;
- (4) the Medical Officer of Health consult and collaborate with relevant municipal, provincial and national organizations to explore the feasibility of a multidimensional Canadian Children's Food Bill and report to the Board of Health;
- (5) the Medical Officer of Health report on Toronto children's current exposure to food and beverage marketing and the impact of food and beverage marketing on child health;
- (6) this report be forwarded to the Toronto Food Policy Council, the Food and Hunger Action Committee, the GTA Agricultural Action Committee, and the Community Services Committee;
- (7) this report be sent to the provincial Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Education, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, to inform the policy agenda on food security and the early years; and,
- (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

#### **4. 2006 Operating Budget – Update from Meeting with Budget Advisory Committee**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing an update on the recommended 2006 Toronto Public Health (TPH) Operating Budget following the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting on February 6, 2006.

##### Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

#### **5. Legal Petition to Reduce U.S. Air Pollution**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, seeking City Council approval to sign on to a legal petition, the purpose of which is to reduce air pollution emissions from U.S. coal-fired power plants, under Section 115 of the U.S. Clair Air Act.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health adopt this report and forward it to City Council;
- (2) City Council add City of Toronto to the list of signatories to the legal petition entitled, "Petition under s. 115, United States *Clean Air Act*, 42 U.S.C. s. 7415(a) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for relief from certain emissions from large electric generating units in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky"; and City Council notify Sierra Legal Defence Fund of its decision;
- (3) City Council forward this report for information to all Boards of Health in Ontario, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Council, and the Director of Public Health for Montreal (RRSSSMC); and encourage other municipalities to participate in Sierra Legal Defence Fund's legal petition to reduce U.S. coal-fired power plant emissions;
- (4) City Council commend the Premier of Ontario for his June 2005 commitment to investigate ways Ontario can boost its support of U.S. states seeking cleaner air through legal mechanisms with the U.S. federal government;
- (5) City Council request that the Premier of Ontario, in addition to filing comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the proposed changes to New Source Review, undertake the necessary activities to reduce Toronto residents' exposure to transboundary air pollution, including legal action as appropriate;
- (6) the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, be authorized to support any further action taken by the Province of Ontario that aims to reduce transboundary emissions from the U.S., including any further submission on the proposed New Source Review rules;
- (7) the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the City Solicitor, monitor and report back on progress regarding the legal petition; and
- (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

**6. Appointment of Associate Medical Officers of Health**

Report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, recommending the appointment of two public health physicians as Associate Medical Officers of Health for

the City of Toronto Health Unit and to update the status of Associate Medical Officer of Health appointment by-laws.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the designation of Associate Medical Officers of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report be transmitted to City Council and to the provincial Minister of Health & Long-Term Care for approval;
- (2) the by-laws appointing former Associate Medical Officers of Health outlined in Appendix 1 of this report be repealed; and
- (3) authority be granted to introduce the necessary Bill in Council to give effect to the above recommendations.

**7. Green Fleet Transition Plan**

Communication (February 1, 2006) from the Director, Fleet Services, City of Toronto, forwarding a copy of the Green Fleet Transition Plan, as requested by the Board of Health at its meeting on November 28, 2005.

**8. Ontario Heart Health Partnership Year-End Funding for Active Living and Healthy Eating**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, informing the Board of Health of the receipt of Ministry of Health Promotion funding to support and enhance community-based programming related to active living and healthy eating and to seek approval for an amendment to the Toronto Public Health 2006 Operating Budget with respect to this funding.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) an amount of \$79,396 gross expenditure and \$79,396 revenue be added to the 2006 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget for enhancement of nutrition and physical activity programming for children and youth; and
- (2) this report be forwarded directly to the Policy and Finance Committee meeting scheduled for February 28, 2006 due to time constraints for the use of the funding; and

- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

**9. National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, seeking City Council's endorsement of the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada.

Recommendations:

It is recommend that:

- (1) City Council endorse the "National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada", as summarized in this report (see Appendix A);
- (2) Council communicate its endorsement of the National Framework to Health Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse;
- (3) the City of Toronto, as part of implementing the Toronto Drug Strategy, actively participate in advancing priorities of mutual concern identified in the National Framework; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

**10. Communicable Diseases in Toronto, 2004**

Report (February 9, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing update trends in reportable communicable diseases in Toronto for 2004.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

**11. Report on Legionnaires Disease Outbreak**

Report to follow.



## **12. Pandemic Influenza Plan for the City of Toronto**

Verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health.

## **13. Hot Weather Response Plan - Update**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing an update on the City of Toronto's Hot Weather Response Plan and the experience of the summer of 2005.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) Shelter, Support and Housing Administration identify air-conditioned drop-in centres that could be used during Heat Alert and Extreme Heat Alerts and extend their hours as feasible and appropriate to ensure better access to cool places;
- (2) Social housing providers, including Toronto Community Housing Corporation, ensure that common amenity spaces are air conditioned and accessible to residents on a 24 hour basis during Heat and Extreme Heat Alerts;
- (3) Homes for the Aged work with Toronto Public Health to identify possible ways to provide short stay beds for frail isolated seniors during an Extreme Heat Alert;
- (4) Toronto Public Health increase outreach to landlords and tenants prior to the hot weather season and in response to an anticipated Extreme Heat Alert, by sending Public Health Inspection students to identified sites to provide education and information and encourage all rooming/boarding home operations to develop extreme heat contingency plans;
- (5) Toronto Public Health continue to develop and provide education sessions on hot weather health risks and strategies to present them to landlords of rooming houses and boarding houses, group homes, hostels and property managers of Toronto Community Housing Corporation;
- (6) Toronto Public Health continue to work with other community agencies to maintain agency-specific registries of at-risk clients they are currently serving and to provide outreach to those clients when Heat Alerts and Extreme Heat Alerts are called;
- (7) Shelter, Support and Housing Administration operate four cooling centres including one 24 hour downtown location during Extreme Heat Alerts in 2006 with water, snacks, cots and transportation available to bring people to and from the centre when necessary;

- (8) Toronto Public Health work with Toronto Hydro and other stakeholders to determine the feasibility of establishing a subsidy program for low-income vulnerable people to own and operate air-conditioners and report to the Board prior to the summer of 2007;
- (9) the Medical Officer of Health set as a guideline a Maximum Indoor Temperature Threshold of 32°C that would act as a bench mark for a range of protective measures at times of extreme heat alerts;
- (10) that the Medical Officer of Health and the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division report to the Board of Health on the feasibility of incorporating a maximum indoor temperature standard in new licensing requirements for multi-occupancy residential buildings in Toronto;
- (11) the Energy Efficiency Office explore the feasibility of expanding the Better Buildings Partnership to rooming houses and boarding homes which serve residents vulnerable to extreme heat;
- (12) the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to award, amend, and execute purchase of service contracts with Community Information Toronto and the Canadian Red Cross Society to provide services and coordination during Heat Alerts and Extreme Heat Alerts;
- (13) the Board of Health send this report to the Community Services Committee and the Toronto Community Housing Corporation; and
- (14) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

**13(a).** Communication (September 23, 2005) from Barbara Hurd, Member, Housing Action Now, Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Services.

#### **14. Rodent Control Program for the City of Toronto**

Report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, reporting to the Board of Health on a city-wide integrated rodent control program, including the interdivisional approaches to be adopted in eradicating rodents, the provision of rodent control fact sheets and the health related risks and benefits of such a program.

##### Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

**15. Local Health Committee Minutes**

**15(a).** Minutes of the Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on November 15, 2005.

**16. Toronto East York Local Health Committee Communication Related to the Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan Decision Making Model**

Communication (February 12, 2006) from Fiona Nelson, Chair, Toronto East York Local Health Committee, related to the Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan Decision Making Model.



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SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA  
MEETING 2**

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*The following material relates to items already on the main agenda.*

**11. Report on Legionnaires Disease Outbreak**

Report (February 15, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing a summary of the Legionnaires' Disease outbreak investigation by Toronto Public Health. A copy of the Report of the Expert Panel on the Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak in the City of Toronto – September/October 2005 is attached for information (see Appendix A).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Board of Health write the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to express strong support for the recommendations of the Report of the Expert Panel on the Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak in the City of Toronto – September/October 2005 and urge the Minister to act on the recommendations as soon as possible; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

**13. Hot Weather Response Plan - Update**

Revised Appendix 1 – Summary of Heat Alert, Extreme Heat Alert, and Smog Alert Days – Summer 2005.

**15. Local Health Committee Minutes**

**15(b).** Minutes of the North Region Local Health Committee meeting held on January 11, 2006.