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**BOARD OF HEALTH  
DECISION DOCUMENT  
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  
416-397-7766  
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*The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Board minutes for the official record.*

*How to read the Decision Document:*

- *recommendations of the Board to City Council or a Committee are in bold type after the item heading;*
- *action taken by the Board on its own authority does not require Council's approval and is listed in the Decision Document in bold type under the heading "Action taken by the Board:"; and*
- *declarations of interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

Minutes Confirmed – January 19, 2006

**Chair/MOH Announcements:**

**Councillor Filion, Chair, Board of Health, announced that a luncheon and presentation of a plaque had taken place on Monday, February 27, 2006, by Mayor David Miller on behalf of Members of Council, to recognize and thank Toronto Public Health staff for their work during the recent Legionnaires Disease Outbreak.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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.

The Board of Health also considered a written submission (undated) from Ruth Bacon, Lactation Consultant – Early Years Program, Black Creek Community Health Centre.

**The Board of Health recommended that the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health and the following Motion, moved by Fiona Nelson, Board Member, be forwarded to the Community Services Committee for its meeting on March 8, 2006:**

**“That a new Recommendation (7) to the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health be adopted, as follows:**

- ‘(7) the Medical Officer of Health collaborate with Toronto Children’s Services in order to include the children’s health issues raised in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘The Health of Toronto’s Young Children: First Two Reports’, the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘The Link Between Periodontal Disease and Adverse Birth Outcomes’, and the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘Food Security: Implications for Early Years Populations’, in their Community Symposium on Children’s Issues, and as required for ‘Best Start’ and ‘Best Generation Yet’ planning;’.**”

**The Board of Health:**

- (1) **adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, with the following amendments:**
- (a) **deleting Recommendation (6) and replacing it with the following recommendation instead:**
- “(6) the Board of Health forward this report to the following key stakeholders for information: Toronto’s 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, Children and Youth, Public Health Agency of Canada, and Members of the Local Health Committees for the City of Toronto.”;**
- (b) **endorsing the addition of a new Recommendation (7), as follows, and forwarding it to the Community Services Committee for its meeting on March 8, 2006:**

- “(7) the Medical Officer of Health collaborate with Toronto Children’s Services in order to include the children’s health issues raised in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘The Health of Toronto’s Young Children: First Two Reports’, the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘The Link Between Periodontal Disease and Adverse Birth Outcomes’, and the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled ‘Food Security: Implications for Early Years Populations’, in their Community Symposium on Children’s Issues, and as required for ‘Best Start’ and ‘Best Generation Yet’ planning.”; and
- (c) re-numbering existing Recommendation (7) and existing Recommendation (8) in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, as Recommendation (8) and (9);
- (2) requested the Federal Government to maintain funding for the Community Action Program for Children and the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program as essential strategies for promoting the health and well-being of young children;
- (3) requested that when the reports and integrated strategies are completed, they be circulated to the Canadian Conference on Chief Executives, the Conference Board of Canada, the Toronto Board of Trade, the Ontario Medical Association (O.M.A.), the Canadian Medical Association (C.M.A.), the Registered Nurses of Ontario (R.N.O.), the Ontario Association of Family Physicians and the Ontario Association of Pediatricians; and
- (4) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board of Health at its meeting on May 15, 2006, such report to include:
- (a) an outline, including timelines of future reports in the series “The Health of Toronto’s Children”;
- (b) timelines for the follow-up reports recommended in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled “The Health of Toronto’s Young Children: First Two Reports”; and
- (c) a summary of how the work activities arising out of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled “The Health of Toronto’s Young Children: First Two Reports”, are being linked to the inter-departmental children’s services planning at the City;
2. **The Link Between Periodontal Disease and Adverse Birth Outcomes**

**The Board of Health recommended:**

- (1) that the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health be forwarded to the Community Services Committee; and
- (2) that it be recommended to the Community Services Committee that:
  - (a) those eligible for social assistance be entitled to receive basic dental services to improve oral health instead of emergency services as currently offered; and
  - (b) as a first step, pregnant women eligible for social assistance, be entitled to receive basic dental services in order to contribute to healthy birth outcomes.

Action taken by the Board:

**The Board of Health:**

- (1) endorsed the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, with Recommendation (4) being deleted and replaced with the following instead:
  - “(4) the Board of Health advocate to the Community Services Committee and the Province of Ontario, that:
    - (a) those eligible for social assistance be entitled to receive basic dental services to improve oral health, instead of emergency services as currently offered; and
    - (b) as a first step, pregnant women eligible for social assistance, be entitled to receive basic dental services in order to contribute to healthy birth outcomes;”
- (2) deleted Recommendation (5) in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health and replaced with the following instead:
  - “(5) this report be forwarded to the Community Services Committee, the Minister of Health and Long Term-Care and to the Ontario Association for Public Health Dentists;”; and
- (3) requested the Medical Officer of Health to :
  - (a) write to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and the Minister of Community and Social Services recommending that preventive dental services and treatment of periodontal disease during pregnancy be provided for low income pregnant women on social assistance to contribute to

**reducing the incidence of low birth weight in Ontario thereby reducing health care cost;**

- (b) include in the 2007 budget submission to the Board of Health Budget SubCommittee, an allocation for a dental hygiene program for high-risk mothers enrolled in public health programs, as outlined in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health;**
- (c) monitor research on the link between periodontal health and adverse birth outcomes, keep the Board of Health informed and make recommendations as appropriate.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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

**The Board of Health:**

- (1) **adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, with the following amendments:**
- (a) **adding a new Recommendation (7), as follows:**
- “(7) the Board of Health petition the Ministers of Health and Long Term Care, Health Promotion, and Children and Youth Services and the Minister of Education, to establish a universal school lunch program based on the criteria for quality similar to those outlined in the Children’s Food Bill currently before the British House of Commons;”; and**
- (b) **deleting existing Recommendation (7) in the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health and inserting the following, re-numbered as Recommendation (8):**
- “(8) 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; the Toronto District School Board, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board to inform the policy agenda on food security and the early years; and”; and**
- (c) **re-numbering existing Recommendation (8) in the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, as Recommendation (9);**
- (2) **requested that the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, be sent to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care and the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Board of Health highlight the need for increased social assistance rates and minimum wage; and**
- (3) **requested the Medical Officer of Health to forward the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health to Statistics Canada and request that questions related to food security be included in the 2011 census.**

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**



The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health received the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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. Clean 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.

**The Board of Health recommends that City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

**The Board of Health endorsed the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health recommends that:**

- (1) **City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 10, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health; and**
- (2) **because the subject matter relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal or local board employees, discussions about the contents of Confidential Appendix 1 be held in camera.**

**7. Green Fleet Transition Plan**

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health received the communication (February 1, 2006) from the Director, Fleet Services Division.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee that the Policy and Finance Committee adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, as follows:**

- (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;**
- (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.**

**The Board of Health endorsed the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health recommends that:**

- (1) **City Council adopt the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health; and**
- (2) **endorse the Appendix, entitled “National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada”, dated Fall 2005, referred to in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, and submitted under separate cover by the Board of Health on March 2, 2006.**

**The Board of Health:**

- (i) **endorsed the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health; and**
- (ii) **endorsed the Appendix, entitled “National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harms Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada”, dated Fall 2005, referred to in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

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

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health received the report (February 9, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

**11. Report on Legionnaires Disease Outbreak**

The Board of Health considered a 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.

**The Board of Health adopted the staff recommendations in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 15, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health.**

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

The Board of Health considered a verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health.

**The Board of Health received the verbal update from Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Medical Officer of Health, regarding the Pandemic Influenza Plan for the City of Toronto.**

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

**The Board of Health recommended to the Community Services Committee that the Community Services Committee:**

- (1) **adopt staff recommendation (1) in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, as follows:**
  - “(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) **adopt staff recommendation (7) in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, subject to deleting the words, “snacks” and replacing it with the words, “high protein and high caloric” instead, and adding the words, “and in addition, that the 24 hour downtown location be relocated to a more accessible site than Metro Hall” so the recommendation would now reads as follows:**

**“(7) Shelter, Support and Housing Administration operate four cooling centres including one 24 hour downtown location during Extreme Heat Alerts in 2006 with water, high protein and high caloric foods, cots and transportation available to bring people to and from the centre when necessary, and in addition, that the 24 hour downtown location be relocated to a more accessible site than Metro Hall;”and**

- (3) direct Shelter, Support and Housing Administration staff to implement these Recommendations by the Summer of 2006.**

**The Board of Health:**

- (1) endorsed staff recommendations (1) and (7) in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health subject to Recommendation (7) being amended by deleting the words, “snacks” and replacing it with the words, “high protein and high caloric” instead, and adding the words, “and in addition, that the 24 hour downtown location be relocated to a more accessible site than Metro Hall” so the recommendation would now read as follows:**

**“(7) Shelter, Support and Housing Administration operate four cooling centres including one 24 hour downtown location during Extreme Heat Alerts in 2006 with water, high protein and high caloric foods, cots and transportation available to bring people to and from the centre when necessary, and in addition, that the 24 hour downtown location be relocated to a more accessible site than Metro Hall;”**

- (2) adopted staff recommendations (2) to (6) and staff recommendations (8) to (14) in the Recommendations Section of the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health;**
- (3) requested that Recommendations (1) to (8) and Recommendation (12) outlined in the report (February 13, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health, be implemented by the Summer of 2006;**
- (4) referred the following Recommendations (1) and (2) in the communication (February 27, 2006) from Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, Wellesley Central Health Corporation, to the Medical Officer of Health for a report to the Board of Health at its meeting on April 10, 2006:**

**“(1) An advisory group including community partners (such as housing, health and service providers), along with representatives from Toronto Public Health, Toronto Shelter, Housing and Support and other municipal authorities as appropriate, should be mandated to create and monitor the**

**Community Response Protocol implemented during Heat Alerts and Extreme Heat Alerts; and**

- (2) **The current registry of people whose life and health is “at-risk” should be expanded to include a public education campaign. Referrals should be accepted not only from Toronto Public Health and from selected community agencies, but also from the general public. The development and monitoring of this expanded registry should be co-ordinated by the advisory group proposed in Recommendation (1).”;**
- (5) **referred the following Recommendation (3) in the communication (February 27, 2006) from Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, Wellesley Central Health Corporation, to the Roundtable on the Environment:**
- “(3) Toronto should create a comprehensive “cool homes” program, including funding, to assist building owners in meeting a maximum temperature standard.”;**
- (6) **adopted the following Recommendations (4) and (5) in the communication (February 27, 2006) from Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, Wellesley Central Health Corporation:**
- “(4) Toronto Public Health join with other city departments in planning and implementing the City’s comprehensive urban heat island mitigation strategy.”; and**
- (5) The Toronto Board of Health endorse the ten-point plan from the expert panel on energy alternatives, regarding the proposed Port Lands Energy Centre.”.**

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.

**13(b).** Communication (February 27, 2006) from Michael Shapcott, Senior Fellow in Residence: Public Policy, Wellesley Central.

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

##### Action taken by the Board:

##### **The Board of Health:**

- (1) received the report (February 9, 2006) from the Medical Officer of Health; and**
- (2) requested the Medical Officer of Health and the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to track, if possible, the calls received by the 338-RATS call centre, to determine the locations within the City of Toronto which have a rodent infestation problem.**

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**

##### Action taken by the Board:

**The Board of Health received the minutes from the following Local Health Committees:**

- (1) Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on November 15, 2005; and**
- (2) North Region Local Health Committee meeting held on January 11, 2006.**

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

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

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

Action taken by the Board:

**The Board of Health:**

**(1) referred the following motion adopted by the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee to Deputy City Manager Fareed Amin, the General Manager, Toronto Water, and the Medical Officer of Health, for their consideration and implementation:**

**“Moved by: Lino Grima**

**Seconded by: Roman Polochansky**

**WHEREAS the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee has previously expressed its concern about the pollution burden in South Riverdale and the Beaches area and its impact on the health of residents;**

**and recommended that the Board of Health oppose the building of an incinerator in these areas;**

**and that any other projects with pollutant emissions considered for this area be carefully evaluated for their cumulative impact on the community’s health, by both city staff and the Ministry of the Environment prior to any implementation;**

**the Local Health Committee would like to reiterate its concern about the importance of selecting a more objectively quantifiable methodology and strongly urge that a key principle in reviewing the Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan Decision Making Model must be the impact on the health of residents and that sufficient weight is placed on ensuring an environmentally friendly outcome;**

**as well the Local Health Committee would like to express its strong belief in an open and accountable planning process and requests the Board to ensure that the Peer Review Panel include a strong complement of disciplines with a health and environmental expertise;**

**and furthermore that there be a process for continued citizen input into the process and the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee be part of that process;**

**and that this motion be forwarded to the Deputy City Manager, Fareed Amin, the General Manager – Toronto Water, and the Medical Officer of Health for their consideration and implementation.” and**

- (2) **requested the City Clerk and City Solicitor to advise the Board of Health, under what circumstances, if any, Committees appointed by City Council or Committees appointed by the Board of Health, can receive and comment on confidential information.**

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.

17. **Request to Federal and Provincial Governments to Honour Federal-Provincial Agreement on Early Learning Child Care and Request to Medical Officer of Health to Work with Families, Operators of Child Care Programs, Child Care Advocacy Groups and Other Public Health Organization to ensure Federal Government Fulfills Funding Commitment for National Childcare System and for Toronto’s Best Start Plan.**

Action taken by the Board:

**The Board of Health adopted the following motion moved by Councillor Davis, Ward 31 – Beaches-East York:**

**“WHEREAS high quality childcare contributes to healthy child development; and**

**WHEREAS the City of Toronto received \$46 million for Child Care in 2005 and will receive \$80 million in 2006 from the federal Early Learning and Child Care funding, which will add 2275 new child care spaces in Toronto; and**

**WHEREAS under the existing federal program, the City of Toronto would have received an additional \$236 million over the life of the five-year program and added a total of 5,855 licensed and subsidized child care spaces in the City of Toronto; and**

**WHEREAS the cancellation of the federal Early Learning and Child Care program by the new Conservative government puts the City of Toronto’s child care system and those new spaces in jeopardy; and**

**WHEREAS the lost funding will leave many children in the City of Toronto without quality accessible child care;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- (1) the Board of Health call on the Federal Government to honour the Federal-Provincial agreements on early learning child care; and**
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health work with the families, operators of child care programs, child care advocacy groups, Children Services Division and other public health organizations, to ensure that the Federal government fulfills the five-year funding commitment for a national childcare system and to ensure that Toronto can proceed with its Best Start plan.”**

**18. Request to Province of Ontario and the Ontario Power Authority – Creation of a Sustainable Energy Strategy and Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment of Ontario’s Energy Options**

Action taken by the Board:

**The Board of Health adopted the following motion moved by Fiona Nelson, Board Member:**

**“That the Board of Health:**

- (1) urge the Ontario Power Authority and the Government of Ontario to create a sustainable energy strategy that gives clear priority to conservation and demand management approaches, and supply from low-impact, renewable energy sources, rather than placing an emphasis on nuclear energy and natural-gas generated sources; and**
- (2) request the Province of Ontario to undertake a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment of Ontario’s energy options, including conservation and demand management; and that the Province of Ontario engage an independent party to complete the Health Impact Assessment, with advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.”**