
Board of Health

Meeting No. 4
Meeting Date Monday, May 14, 2007
Start Time 1:00 PM
Location Committee Room 1, City Hall

Contact Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
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Board of Health		
Councillor John Filion (Chair)	Councillor Gord Perks	Brian Hyndman
Councillor Janet Davis (Vice-Chair)	Trustee Soo Wong	Fiona Nelson
Councillor Raymond Cho	Cathy Crowe	Rhonda Roffey
Councillor Paula Fletcher	Nathan Gilbert	Valerie Sterling
Councillor Chin Lee		

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

Confirmation of Minutes - April 16, 2007

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

Schedule of Timed Items

1:00 p.m.	-	Item HL4.1
2:30 p.m.	-	Item HL4.3
2:45 p.m.	-	Item HL4.4
3:00 p.m.	-	Item HL4.5

Communications/Reports

HL4.1	Presentation	1:00 PM	Transactional	
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Pandemic Influenza Update

Summary

Presentation by Allison J. Stuart, Director, Emergency Management Unit, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

HL4.2	ACTION		Transactional	
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Pilot Testing the New Air Quality Health Index in Toronto

(April 24, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the 2007 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget be increased by \$160,000 gross and \$0 net to reflect funding from Health Canada for the launch of the Air Quality Health Index Toronto Pilot Program;
2. the Board of Health forward this report to the Budget Committee for consideration; and
3. the Board of Health forward this report to the Toronto Environment Office for information.

Financial Impact

Source of Funds	Gross	Net
One-time funding from Health Canada for AQHI Toronto Pilot Program – 2007	\$160,000	\$0
One-time funding from Health Canada for Completion of Evaluation of the AQHI – 2008	\$40,000	\$0
Total Funding	\$200,000	\$0
Additional position		1

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is a new national health based index that will help Canadians understand how to protect their health from air pollution. Toronto has been selected as a pilot site for implementation of the AQHI. Health Canada is providing funding of \$200,000 to Toronto Public Health in 2007-08 to inform the community about the AQHI and evaluate its effectiveness. The Medical Officer of Health recommends that City Council amend the 2007 Toronto Public Health budget to reflect this new funding from Health Canada.

Implementation of the AQHI will also benefit Toronto by stimulating public support for bold action by city government and its agencies, boards and commissions. The AQHI supports the approach and initiatives proposed in the Mayor's "A Change is in the Air" report and the City's resulting Climate Change and Clean Air Action Plan.

Background Information

Pilot Testing the New Air Quality Health Index in Toronto

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3452.pdf>)

HL4.3	ACTION	2:30 PM	Transactional	
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Reducing Health Impacts of Perchloroethylene from Dry Cleaning in Toronto

(April 30, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health request the federal Minister of Health to recognize perchloroethylene as a probable carcinogen consistent with leading agencies such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer;
2. the Board of Health request the federal Minister of the Environment to eliminate the use of perc in dry cleaning in Canada by the earliest date possible and to encourage professional fabric cleaners to replace it with water-based cleaning and other inorganic solvent-based technologies;
3. the Medical Officer of Health, in collaboration with other City divisions, consult with the dry cleaning industry and other community stakeholders to explore possible options to reduce the use of perc in the short term; and
4. the Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health in February 2008 on the feasibility of municipal regulation to phase out the use of perchloroethylene in dry cleaning facilities which are co-located with residential or other sensitive uses.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

Summary

This report responds to the Board of Health's request to assess the health impact of the dry cleaning industry in Toronto, and the ways and means of ensuring that the dry cleaning industry eliminates harmful chemicals from its cleaning process. Perchloroethylene (perc), also known as tetrachloroethylene, is the most commonly used solvent for dry cleaning in Toronto. The International Agency for Research on Cancer and a number of U.S. agencies classify perc as a possible or probable carcinogen, but Health Canada lists it as unlikely to be carcinogenic to humans.

There are approximately 360 perc-based dry cleaning facilities operating in the City of Toronto. Dry cleaners may locate inside a building that has residential units or provides space for sensitive uses such as child care facilities. Dry cleaning facilities that operate dry cleaning machines in such settings are referred to as being "co-located". People living in buildings where perc-based dry cleaning occurs are at increased risk for health effects from exposure to perc.

Although dry cleaning technology improvements have reduced releases of perc to the air, studies show that people can still be exposed to perc at unacceptable levels. In the United States, steps have been taken to stop the use of perc in dry cleaning and replace it with other solvents and technologies that can be successfully used by professionals to clean fabrics. Water-based cleaning technologies and liquid carbon dioxide are two options that pose the least risk to human health and the environment. This report outlines measures to reduce exposure to perc used in dry cleaning, particularly in co-located settings.

Background Information

Reducing Health Impacts of Perchloroethylene from Dry Cleaning in Toronto
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3453.pdf>

HL4.4	ACTION	2:45 PM	Transactional	
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2007/2008 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

(April 30, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health recommend that City Council enter into agreements totalling \$2,799,340 with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$2,502,715.73) and the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$296,624.27) to administer the Community Partnership and Investment Program funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;
2. the Board of Health recommend that City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation (1), including the execution of agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Angel Foundation for Learning on behalf of the City; and
3. the Board of Health forward this report for information to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report will have no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2007 City budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

This report requests that the Board of Health adopt the recommendations of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) Steering Committee regarding the 2007/2008 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations.

The TPSN Steering Committee requests that the Board of Health recommend the City of Toronto execute agreements with the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, for a combined total of \$2,799,340. An amount of \$100,000 will be held for appeals.

Background Information

2007/2008 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3454.pdf>

HL4.5	Information	3:00 PM	Transactional	
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Fluoridation of Toronto Tap Water

(April 30, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Summary

This report responds to requests from the Board of Health (BOH) and the Works Committee for reports from the Medical Officer of Health on whether to stop adding fluoride to Toronto's tap water.

Fluoridation of drinking water provides important oral health benefits. This position is supported by evidence compiled by the Centres for Disease Control in the United States, who, based on that evidence have declared that water fluoridation is one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century (1). In addition, eighty experts from thirty countries, together with the World Health Organization, FDI World Dental Federation and the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) reaffirmed the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety of the daily use of optimal fluoride through the Global Consultation on Oral Health through Fluoride held in 2006 (2).

Credible scientific evidence supports the view that at 0.6 p.p.m., the amount level in Toronto water, the benefits of fluoridation outweigh any risks.

Background Information

Fluoridation of Toronto Tap Water
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3455.pdf>

HL4.6	Information		Transactional	
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Provincial Funding for InSPOT Toronto

(April 27, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Toronto Public Health 2007 Operating Budget be increased by \$59,220 gross, \$0 net to reflect provincial funding received to support the inSPOT service.
2. this report be forwarded to the Budget Committee for consideration.

Financial Impact

This report recommends an increase of \$59,220 gross expenditures and \$59,220 revenues to the 2007 Toronto Public Health Operating Budget. There is no net cost to the City for this initiative.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Summary

To inform the Board of Health of the receipt of \$59,220 in funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), AIDS Bureau in order to support a new Toronto Public Health service, inSPOT Toronto. inSPOT Toronto is an online e-notification service aimed at reducing the prevalence of syphilis and other sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Toronto.

In February 2007, Toronto Public Health (TPH) was asked to submit a proposal to MOHLTC, AIDS Bureau for funds to launch and advertise inSPOT Toronto as part of the AIDS Bureau's syphilis reduction efforts. TPH received \$59,220 in funding from the MOHLTC for the establishment, launch and online promotion of this new service to facilitate online partner notification of sexually transmitted infections.

Background Information

Provincial Funding for InSPOT Toronto

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3456.pdf>)

HL4.7	ACTION		Transactional	
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Board of Health Representation and Attendance at 2007 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Meetings

(April 27, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health appoint a Board of Health member to represent Toronto on the board of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa);
2. the Board of Health approve the participation of a Board of Health representative or alternate at all alPHa Board meetings, alPHa Board of Health Section meetings and alPHa conferences in 2007 and cover expenses associated with this participation; and
3. the Board of Health encourage the participation of its members at alpha Board of Health Section meetings and the Toronto-based conferences in 2007 (see Attachment 1 for the first conference) and pay expenses associated with this participation.

Financial Impact

Funds to pay expenses for Board of Health members to attend alPHa conferences and meetings are within the 2007 Recommended Public Health Operating Budget. The Board of Health approves use of these funds on a meeting-by-meeting basis. However, this is an overall request to facilitate attendance at alPHa events.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to request that the Board of Health appoint a representative on the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and approve the payment of expenses for the participation of Board of Health members at alPHa meetings in 2007.

Background Information

Board of Health Representation and Attendance at 2007 Association of Local
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3457.pdf>

Board of Health Representation and Attendance at 2007 - ATT1
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3458.pdf>

HL4.8	Information		Transactional	
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Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations

(April 3, 2007) report from Auditor General

Summary

This report is to provide the Board of Health with the results of the follow-up of audit recommendations previously made by the City's Auditor General (formerly City Auditor) to the Toronto Public Health between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2005.

The result of our review shows that Toronto Public Health staff has implemented most of the recommendations made in previous audit reports issued by the Auditor General's Office. Audit recommendations fully implemented are listed in Attachment 1. Audit recommendations not fully implemented, as well as management's comments and action plan, are included in Attachment 2. One audit recommendation that is no longer applicable is listed in Attachment 3.

Background Information

Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3459.pdf>)

HL4.9	Information		Transactional	
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Update on City Council Approved Toronto Public Health 2007 Operating Budget

(April 24, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Summary

This report provides the Board of Health (BOH) with an update on the Toronto Public Health (TPH) 2007 Operating Budget approved at the City Council meeting of April 20 and 23, 2007.

City Council approved a TPH 2007 Operating Budget of \$210,506.6 thousand gross and \$50,397.4 thousand net, including a base budget of \$207,399.3 thousand gross and \$50,085.0 thousand net, and New and Enhanced Services of \$3,107.3 thousand gross and \$312.4 thousand net. The New and Enhanced Services include the three BOH recommended enhancements that are cost shared at 75 percent with the Province, one new initiative that is fully funded by the City and salaries and benefits related to capital projects that are approved in the 2007 Capital Budget.

Background Information

Update on City Council Approved Toronto Public Health 2007 Operating Budget
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3460.pdf>)

HL4.10	Information		Transactional	
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Update on City Council Approved Toronto Public Health 2007-2011 Capital Budget and Plan

(April 26, 2007) report from Medical Officer of Health

Summary

This report provides an update to the Board of Health (BOH) on the Toronto Public Health 2007 Capital Budget and 2008-2011 Capital Plan as approved by City Council. At its meeting of March 7, 2007, City Council approved a 2007-2011 Capital Budget and Plan for Toronto Public Health (TPH) in the amount of \$18.768 million with a 2007 cash flow of \$4.880 million (including carry-forward of \$0.937 million from 2006 into 2007). The future year commitments and plan estimates are comprised of \$3.490 million for 2008, \$3.499 million for 2009, \$3.499 million for 2010 and \$3.400 million for 2011.

Background Information

Update on City Council Approved Toronto Public Health 2007-2011 Capital
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3461.pdf>)

HL4.11	ACTION		Transactional	
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Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Study of Proposed East Toronto Transmission Line

(April 3, 2007) letter from Councillor Paula Fletcher

Recommendations

Asking that the Board of Health:

1. request the Minister of Energy and Minister of Environment to direct the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to fund a health impact assessment study regarding the proposed transmission lines for Toronto, and that this study be overseen by the Toronto Medical Officer of Health, this assessment would consider alternative routings and approaches; and
2. request OPA to provide funding to Toronto Public Health so that it has the resources to provide the necessary oversight.

Summary

Letter from Councillor Paula Fletcher, regarding the Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Study and the proposed East Toronto Transmission Line.

Background Information

Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Study of Proposed East Toronto Transmission Line
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3462.pdf>

HL4.12	Information		Transactional	
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North York Local Health Committee Minutes**Summary**

Minutes of the North Region Local Health Committee meetings held on October 17, 2006, November 14, 2006, and January 23, 2007.

Background Information

North York Local Health Committee Minutes

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3463.pdf>

North York Local Health Committee Minutes - ATT1

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3464.pdf>

North York Local Health Committee Minutes - ATT2

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-3465.pdf>