

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

**To:** Dr. David McKeown, Medical Officer of Health  
Chair, Board of Health

**From:** Councillor Gord Perks

**Subject:** Staff report, Impact of Poverty on Children's Current and Future Health

I am writing with respect to the August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 staff report submitted to the Board of Health regarding the Impact of Poverty on Children's Current and Future Health. I understand that this report discusses health impacts associated with child poverty, as well as strategies to alleviate child poverty in the city of Toronto.

I would like to know if a concurrent analysis was done on the impact of poverty on the health status of children in racialized communities. Immigrants and visible minorities are mentioned quantitatively in this report, i.e. as a high number of young children living in low income inadequate households, or the greatest proportion of workers employed in temporary and contract jobs, however I see no direct analyses between these factors associated with children's health, and that they are most severe in racialised communities. This report also does not address the significant barriers to accessing healthcare that people from racialised communities (especially newcomers and immigrants) experience, and that these barriers affect the health status of children in Toronto. Finally, this report also does not address discrimination as a determinant of children's health.

I would like to discuss this further at the February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting of Board of Health, and I would also ask that staff report back on the **causes** and impacts of poverty on children of racialised groups and their health status.

Please also be advised that for background information, I have attached a literature review compiled by Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre, "Racialised Groups and Health Status: A Literature Review Exploring Poverty, Housing, Race-Based Discrimination and Access to Health Care as Determinants of Health for Racialised Groups".

Sincerely,



Gord Perks  
City Councillor  
Ward 14, Parkdale-High Park