

October 22, 2008

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Board of Health Item HL18.2
Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket – Toronto 2008

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Toronto Board of Health, on October 22, 2008:

1. requested that the provincial and federal governments implement income support benefits and minimum wage rates based on the real cost of healthy living, including nutritious food, and indexed annually to reflect inflation;
2. requested that the Chair of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health together with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and representatives of community organizations that serve low-income families, meet with the Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, the Minister of Health Promotion, and the Minister of Community and Social Services, to discuss the results of the Nutritious Food Basket survey across Ontario, and ensure that the findings inform the provincial poverty reduction strategy; and
3. forwarded this report for support and action to the following key stakeholders: the City of Toronto's Community Development and Recreation Committee; the General Managers of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Children's Services, Long-term Care Homes and Services, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation; the Ontario Ministers of Health Promotion, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion at Health Canada; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies; the Ontario Public Health Association's Community Food Security Workgroup; Ontario Boards of Health; the Association of Ontario Health Centres; the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, the Dietitians of Canada and all local MPs and MPPs.

The Board of Health Item HL18.2, in its entirety, can be accessed through the City's web site at the following address:

Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket - Toronto 2008 - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16110.pdf>)

Attachment 1 - Weekly Cost of Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto (May 2008)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16111.pdf>)

Attachment 2 - Affordability Case Scenarios (September 2008)

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16112.pdf>)

Yours truly,

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd
Item HL18.2

Attachment

c. Medical Officer of Health