

## Board of Health

<b>Meeting No.</b>	14	<b>Contact</b>	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Tuesday, May 20, 2008	<b>Phone</b>	416-392-8032
<b>Start Time</b>	1:00 PM	<b>E-mail</b>	boh@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

Board of Health		
Councillor John Filion (Chair)	Councillor Gord Perks	Wangari Muriuki
Councillor Janet Davis (Vice-Chair)	Trustee Soo Wong	Fiona Nelson
Councillor Raymond Cho	Alejandra Bravo	Lisa O'Brien
Councillor Paula Fletcher	Vaijayanthi Chari	Valerie Sterling
Councillor Chin Lee		

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

**Confirmation of Minutes - April 21 , 2008**

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

**Communications/Reports**

HL14.1	ACTION			
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**Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw**

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

**Recommendations**

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that the Board of Health:

1. Request the Ontario Minister of Environment to:
  - a. amend the wording of the proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act so that if there is a conflict between a municipal bylaw and the Act, the provision that is most restrictive of the cosmetic use of pesticides prevails; and
  - b. clarify the timelines, enforcement provisions and resources for the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act implementation, particularly as they relate to municipalities that currently have pesticide bylaws.

**Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts from this report.

**Summary**

Toronto's Pesticide Bylaw (Municipal Code 612) came into effect on April 1, 2004 and restricts the outdoor cosmetic use of pesticides on all public and private property in the city. It was one of the first such bylaws passed in Ontario. Currently there are an estimated 29 pesticide bylaws in Ontario, and 140 across Canada.

On April 22, 2008 the provincial government introduced Bill 64, the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, to prohibit the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes across Ontario. The province is currently seeking public comment on the Act, and will introduce more detailed regulation following the consultation.

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) supports the intent of Bill 64. Toronto's bylaw has been successful in reducing pesticide use, and the provincial ban on sales and use will further restrict pesticides and therefore reduce human exposure to these substances.

However, the Act as currently written would render existing municipal bylaws inoperative, including Toronto's. The provincial government has not yet defined many important details of the proposed Act, including exemptions and an implementation timeline. Depending on these details, portions of the proposed Bill may be weaker than the current Toronto bylaw and therefore less protective of health. The MOH recommends that the Board of Health communicate this concern to the provincial government during its consultation period.

### **Background Information**

Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12740.pdf>)

Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw - Attachment 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12831.pdf>)

HL14.2	ACTION			
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### **Strengthening Alcohol Policy in Ontario**

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

### **Recommendations**

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health endorse the following advocacy requests to the provincial government, being considered as resolutions at the annual meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies in June 2008:
  - a. establish stricter advertising standards for alcohol, in particular with respect to youth;
  - b. create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse, as one component of a comprehensive prevention strategy;
  - c. restrict the sale of alcohol to government-owned and -operated stores;
  - d. reduce the legal BAC (blood alcohol concentration) from 0.08% to 0.05%;
  - e. enact a zero BAC limit for drivers under the age of 21 years; and

- f. develop a comprehensive strategy for alcohol and other drugs based on the four components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.

### Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

### Summary

Alcohol is the most widely used psychoactive drug in our society. Next to tobacco, alcohol creates the most health, social, economic and criminal harms to individuals, families and communities. The annual economic impact in Ontario of alcohol use is estimated at \$5.3 billion. In an effort to strengthen alcohol policy in Ontario, the Middlesex London Health Unit (MHLU) is proposing six resolutions for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) in June 2008 (see Attachment 1). This report seeks to confirm Toronto Board of Health's (BOH) position on these resolutions to guide voting of Toronto Public Health and Board of Health representatives at that meeting.

The Board of Health has previously endorsed some of the proposed resolutions as part of targeted reports or its approval of the Toronto Drug Strategy. Specifically, the Board has supported the need for a comprehensive provincial strategy for alcohol and other drugs, restricting the sale of alcohol to government-owned and operated stores, and reducing the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for driving from 0.08% to 0.05%.

In addition, based on scientific evidence, it is recommended that the Board of Health support the resolutions urging the provincial government to: enact a zero BAC limit on drivers until they reach the age of 21; to establish stricter advertising standards for alcohol and; to create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse.

### Background Information

Strengthening Alcohol Policy in Ontario - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12741.pdf>

HL14.3	ACTION			
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### 2008/2009 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

(May 1, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

### Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that the Board of Health:

1. Recommend that City Council enter into agreements totalling \$2,799,340 with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$2,505,828.81) and the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$293,511.19) to administer the Community Partnership and Investment Program funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;

2. 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;
3. Recommend that City Council waive a requirement for crime and fidelity insurance in any current and future student nutrition program service subsidy agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Angel Foundation for Learning; and
4. Forward this report for information to the Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Ontario 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 2008 City budget.

### Summary

This report requests that the Board of Health adopt the recommendations of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) Steering Committee regarding the 2008/2009 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 and an additional \$50,000 for capital enhancements.

### Background Information

2008/2009 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies - Staff Report  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12744.pdf>

HL14.4	ACTION			
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### Public Health Champion Awards

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

### Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health establish two categories for the Public Health Champion Awards: individual and organization, with one award to be presented in each category annually.
2. The Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee be formed annually comprised of the three members of the Board of Health and one member of each of the

four Local Health Committees.

3. The Board of Health members of the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee for 2008 are Councillor Gord Perks, Vaijyanthi Chari and Wangari Muriuki; each Local Health Committee be requested to appoint one member to the 2008 selection committee.
4. The selection committee convene in September 2008 and report its decisions to the October Board of Health meeting.
5. A public ceremony be held to honour the 2008 award recipients.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Summary**

The purpose of this report is to outline the recommended nomination and selection process for the inaugural Public Health Champion Awards. The awards are being established as a legacy initiative commemorating the 125th anniversary of Toronto Public Health and will be presented annually. The awards will provide public recognition to individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to public health in Toronto.

### **Background Information**

Public Health Champion Awards - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12759.pdf>

HL14.5	Information			
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### **Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update**

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

### **Summary**

The report provides updated information on the epidemiology of influenza and outlines the progress Toronto Public Health has made in its preparedness activities since the last report to the Board of Health.

### **Background Information**

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12742.pdf>

Attachment 1 - Pandemic Influenza Planning Status (April 24, 2008)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12743.pdf>

HL14.6	Presentation			
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### **Post-Tsunami Rebuilding Efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka and the Involvement of Toronto City Staff**

#### **Summary**

Presentation by staff showcasing post-Tsunami rebuilding efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka and the involvement of Toronto City staff who participated in assistance missions to the Tsunami-stricken communities.

HL14.7	Information			
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### **Mortality Trends in the Homeless Population in Toronto**

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

#### **Summary**

This report is the first biannual update on mortality trends in the homeless population in the City of Toronto. The most recent available data from three sources of information on deaths among homeless people are summarized.

#### **Background Information**

Mortality Trends in the Homeless Population in Toronto - Staff Report  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12758.pdf>

HL14.8	Information			
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### **Animal Services Revenues**

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

#### **Summary**

Through the budget process, Toronto Animal Services (TAS) was directed to increase revenues by \$95,000 in 2008 in order to avoid service reductions in the areas of wildlife field response and owner surrender of pets. The 2008 budget approved by Council includes this additional revenue. The Medical Officer of Health was directed to report to the Board of Health on the details of achieving this additional revenue.

Additional revenue can be generated either by increasing fees or volume. A change to fees and charges requires substantial business and financial analysis to reasonably predict the impact of the adjustments for service users and TAS operations. A preliminary analysis indicates that fee adjustments large enough to generate the full increase of \$95,000 in 2008 may have adverse

effects on the achievement of program objectives. Although the budget was premised on potential fee adjustments to be implemented in the spring, this timeframe does not provide Animal Services sufficient time to fully investigate and analyze the situation and to mitigate potential impacts. Animal Services will undertake this analysis during 2008.

Without adjusting fees and charges, there are only two service areas where volumes can possibly be increased to impact revenue: licensing and adoptions. However, it should be noted that licensing already has a very aggressive revenue target to achieve, and program expenditures in this area have already been reduced. It is too early in the year to forecast revenue achievement.

To improve the lives of animals and achieve required revenues, Animal Services will make every effort to increase the number of animals adopted by the public through a public awareness campaign that promotes TAS animal adoptions and the requirement to license pets.

### **Background Information**

Animal Services Revenues - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12745.pdf>)

HL14.9	Information			
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### **Toronto Animal Services Program Review**

(April 29, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health and the Deputy City Manager

#### **Summary**

Toronto Animal Services (TAS) was selected as one of ten programs to undergo program review in 2006/2007. The review of TAS is now complete and implementation of recommendations from the review will occur in 2008.

The review of TAS was designed to focus primarily on two objectives:

1. To determine whether wildlife field response should continue to be provided by the City; and
2. To determine where, in the City's current administrative structure, TAS should be located to support service delivery.

The review concluded that TAS should continue to provide field response for ill, injured, orphaned or otherwise distressed wildlife. The review also found that the "best fit" placement for TAS within the City's current administrative structure is within the Municipal Licensing and Standards (ML&S) Division, where core service objectives could be more closely aligned.

### **Background Information**

Toronto Animal Services Program Review - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12760.pdf>)



HL14.10	Information			
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## Pigeon Feeding

(May 5, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

### Summary

Large number of pigeons (more properly known as the Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*) in urban settings can result in damage to private property and impair the enjoyment and use of private and public property, but only rarely cause disease in people. This report provides information on Toronto Public Health's response to health issues posed by pigeons. In addition, strategies for addressing excessive pigeon feeding at the municipal level in Ontario and elsewhere are described.

This report is submitted in response to the Board of Health (February 26, 2008) request to report on ways to curtail excessive feeding of pigeons and to include information on what other municipalities are doing in this regard.

From time to time, City officials receive public complaints relating to the excessive feeding of pigeons. In these situations, large numbers of birds (hundreds) are attracted to neighbourhoods where they create a public nuisance; interfere with the enjoyment and use of private property; and cause property damage. In rare situation where pigeons may pose a risk to people's health, Toronto Public Health (TPH) can intervene under existing provincial legislation. This report provides current and historical information to inform the Board on this issue.

### Background Information

Pigeon Feeding - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12761.pdf>)

HL14.11	Information			
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## Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations

(April 9, 2008) Report from the Auditor General

### Summary

This report provides the results of the follow-up of audit recommendations that have been implemented since our last follow-up review for reports issued by the City's Auditor General to the Board of Health from January 1, 1999 to June 30, 2007.

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 since our last follow-up review are listed in Attachment 1. Audit recommendations not fully implemented, as well as management's comments and action

plan, are included in Attachment 2 and will be carried forward to our next follow-up review.

**Background Information**

Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations - Staff Report  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12651.pdf>)