
Board of Health

Meeting No.	15	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Monday, June 16, 2008	Phone	416-392-8032
Start Time	1:00 PM	E-mail	boh@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

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

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

Confirmation of Minutes - May 20, 2008

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

Communications/Reports

HL15.1	ACTION			
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Proposal for Development of a Toronto Food Strategy

(June 2, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health endorse the development of a Toronto Food Strategy.
2. The Medical Officer of Health convene a Toronto Food Strategy Steering Group to develop a draft Toronto Food Strategy for broad stakeholder consultation and engagement.
3. The Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health on the status of the Toronto Food Strategy by spring 2009.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Resources to support the development of the Toronto Food Strategy will be within the Toronto Public Health Operating Budget for 2008/09.

Summary

This report proposes a plan for developing a Food Strategy for the City of Toronto; presents the “State of Toronto’s Food” discussion paper that formed the basis of preliminary consultations on the feasibility and appropriateness of a strategy; and provides an overview of existing food-related activities in Toronto.

The goal of a Toronto Food Strategy is to develop an action plan to improve the food system to better support good nutrition, healthy development and disease prevention, poverty reduction and social justice, a strong local economy, environmental protection and climate change action, and the promotion and celebration of culture and community through food. Achieving these goals will require a collaborative process that includes a wide range of City divisions and community partners.

Toronto experiences high rates of obesity and diabetes, too many families that are unable to put enough nutritious food on the table, and a food system that under-serves many ethno-racial and Aboriginal populations. The excessive marketing of unhealthy foods to children, the contribution of the food system to climate change and the viability of agricultural lands surrounding Toronto are also immediate concerns. While most elements of the food system are directed and regulated by provincial and federal governments or the private sector, the City of Toronto has opportunities to influence food systems locally, to use food activities to meet other urban priorities, and exert influence as an advocate and champion. Other local and regional governments around the world are developing and implementing food strategies.

A preliminary consultation on the feasibility and appropriateness of a Toronto Food Strategy found an overall positive response with many stakeholders expressing the need for urgent changes as well as a long-term comprehensive process. The Food Strategy will flow from an analysis of each stage of the food system through a health lens, broadly defined in terms of nutrition and disease prevention, poverty and social justice, economic development; the environment and climate change, and culture and community building. The structure for developing the strategy will be multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary, with expertise and input from a wide range of food sectors. The process will ensure input from councillors, senior City staff, community members, academic institutions, the Toronto Food Policy Council and other food issue experts. It is anticipated that a draft Toronto Food Strategy can be completed by winter 2008/09 with a public consultation process in spring 2009.

Background Information

Proposal for Development of a Toronto Food Strategy - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13560.pdf>

HL15.2	ACTION			
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Nutrition in Toronto School Cafeterias

(June 2, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health urge the Ontario Minister of Education and the Minister of Health Promotion to establish mandatory, comprehensive nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold and/or served in elementary and secondary schools, including school cafeterias, vending machines, special food days, school events, canteens/tuck shops and food-related fundraising activities, and to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these standards.

2. The Board of Health recommend to the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board that, in the absence of mandatory, comprehensive provincial nutrition standards for schools, local comprehensive nutrition standards for Toronto schools be developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact arising from the recommendations in this report other than what was approved in the 2008 Operating Budget.

Summary

This report provides an overview of nutrition in school cafeterias in Toronto and makes recommendations for the Board of Health to advocate for the development and adoption of comprehensive nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold and/or served in schools.

Background Information

Nutrition in Toronto School Cafeterias - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13558.pdf>

HL15.3	ACTION			
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Toronto Street Food Pilot Implementation

(June 3, 2008) Letter from Executive Committee

Summary

Advising that the Executive Committee on June 3, 2008:

1. deferred consideration of the report (May 13, 2008) from Sue Corke, Deputy City Manager, and the Acting Director, Purchasing and Materials Management, until its meeting scheduled to be held in November, 2008;
2. referred the street food project to the Toronto Board of Health to develop recommendations for the introduction of healthy, ethnically diverse food, and report back to the Executive Committee by November 2008; and
3. requested staff of the various city departments to assist the Medical Officer of Health and the Chair of the Board of Health in the formulation of a street food plan.

Background Information

Letter from Executive Committee

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13646.pdf>

Toronto Street Food Pilot Implementation - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13647.pdf>

Toronto Street Food Implementation - Attachment C
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13648.pdf>

HL15.4	Presentation			
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The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - Journey to Your Good Health and the Youth Legacy Project

(April 8, 2008) Letter from William Duron, CEO, Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

Summary

Requesting an opportunity to give an update to the Board of Health on the progress the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is making to help encourage Torontonians to live a healthy life by eating the right foods and enjoying activity; and also to highlight two of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's innovative health programs, Journey to Your Good Health and the Youth Legacy Project.

Background Information

Letter from The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13645.pdf>

HL15.5	ACTION			
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Reporting on Air Pollution from Airports

(May 29, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health request the Toronto Port Authority and the Toronto City Centre Airport to undertake, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, Transport Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada, an airport ambient air monitoring program which includes assessment of nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds, particularly acrolein.
2. The Board of Health request the Greater Toronto Airports Authority to repair their existing onsite monitor and maintain the Airport ambient air monitoring program for at least 15 years to assess the potential air quality impacts associated with changes in Toronto Pearson International Airport operations.

3. The Board of Health request the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to conduct airshed studies of the areas around Toronto Pearson International Airport, and Toronto City Centre Airport, including community-based air monitoring and developing an emissions inventory for the community surrounding each airport.
4. The Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to report back on any new air quality-related information and improvement measures at the Toronto City Centre Airport or Toronto Pearson International Airport in June 2009.
5. The Board of Health encourage the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to explore the development of a corporate travel policy that takes environmental impacts into account, including air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of this report.

Summary

Emissions from air transportation contribute to air pollution in Toronto. Two local airports affect Toronto's air quality: Toronto City Centre Airport, and Toronto Pearson International Airport.

Toronto Public Health previously reported on Toronto's air pollution burden of illness from all sources, and more recently on the air pollution burden of illness from vehicle traffic. However, lack of available data and limitations in available methods prevent Toronto Public Health from carrying out a valid burden of illness calculation for airport emissions.

Airport authorities have used human health risk assessment methods to evaluate the health risk from total air pollution levels at or near an airport. A comprehensive air quality assessment was carried out by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority in 2004, allowing Toronto Public Health to evaluate the health risk of air pollution near Pearson International Airport. It is not possible to evaluate the health risk of air pollution from the Toronto City Centre Airport because a comprehensive air quality assessment has not been undertaken.

More information about the air quality near each airport and sources of air pollution in the areas around each airport would improve Toronto Public Health's ability to comment on health risks from air pollution in nearby communities.

Compared to trains and buses, planes use more fuel and emit more carbon dioxide per passenger for a given distance travelled. Although air travel outside Toronto by City staff is not common, there may be opportunities to reduce transportation-related emissions from staff travel. A City policy could provide clear guidance on selecting the most environmentally friendly option for staff travel.

Background Information

Reporting on Air Pollution from Airports - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13614.pdf>)

HL15.6	Information			
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Cell Phone Use by Children and Youth

(May 29, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

The Board of Health and Toronto City Council recently endorsed a Prudent Avoidance Policy that will help ensure that public exposure to radiofrequencies (RFs) from cell phone towers is 100 times below the current Health Canada exposure standard known as Safety Code 6. This policy does not address public exposure to RFs from the use of telecommunication devices such as cell phones. RF exposure from using a cell phone can be considerably higher than environmental exposure to RFs from local cell phone towers or antennas. Cell phone use has risen consistently in the last decade in Canada. In particular, the number of children who use cell phones has increased greatly. This report responds to the Board of Health's request for further information on the use of cell phones by children and youth and their consequent exposure to RF energy.

The 2007 Toronto Public Health (TPH) report titled "Update and Review of Research on Radiofrequencies: Implications for a Prudent Avoidance Policy in Toronto" summarized research about RF exposure and potential health impacts in people. Considerable research has been done to explore the health impacts from cell phone use in adults. There are gaps in knowledge however, regarding exposure and health impacts in children. The research that is available suggests that children are likely more vulnerable than adults.

Many international reports and scientific experts in the field view the limitations and uncertainty of current research as warranting precautionary recommendations around children's use of cell phones. There are currently no specific Canadian recommendations with regard to cell phone use by children. Some jurisdictions in Europe recommend that children decrease their exposure to RF by strictly limiting their use of cellular phones and some have strongly recommended that use be avoided completely. TPH has broadened its precautionary messages and advice on cell phone use. The focus is on messages for parents and teens to limit use of cell phones by children where possible.

Background Information

Cell Phone Use by Children and Youth - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13559.pdf>

HL15.7	ACTION			
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2008 Drug Prevention Community Investment Program Allocations

(May 27, 2008) Report from the Chair, Drug Prevention Community Investment Review Panel

Recommendations

The 2008 Drug Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel recommends that:

1. The Board of Health request that City Council approve the allocation of \$811,460 to 45 projects as recommended by the 2008 DPCIP Review Panel in Appendix B and Appendix C of this report.
2. The Board of Health request that City Council approve the listed applicants for multi-year assessment in Appendix D and E of this report.
3. Authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to execute Letters of Understanding on behalf of the City.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2008 Approved Operating Budget.

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

Summary

This report outlines the review process, funding applications and recommendations of the Board of Health Drug Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel regarding allocations in 2008.

The 2008 Approved Budget for the Drug Prevention Community Investment Program (DPCIP) includes an allocation of \$811,460. This report recommends the allocation of \$811,460 to 45 projects. Funding is to be used between July 1, 2008 and June 20, 2009.

Background Information

2008 Drug Prevention Community Investment Program Allocations - Chair's Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13561.pdf>

HL15.8	ACTION			
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2008 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Allocation Recommendations

(June 2, 2008) Report from the Chair, AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel

Recommendations

The 2008 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel recommends that:

1. The Board of Health recommend that Toronto City Council approve the allocation of \$1,513,800.00 to 47 projects as recommended by the 2008 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel in Appendix B and Appendix C of this report.
2. The Board of Health recommend that Toronto City Council approve an allocation of \$100,000 to Schools Without Borders to enhance Toronto's response to HIV/AIDS globally and as a legacy to the XVI International AIDS Conference held in Toronto in August 2006, as recommended by the AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel in Appendix D of this report.
3. The Board of Health recommend the project allocations funding for the 2009 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program be increased by \$486,200.00 (from \$1,513,800.00 to \$2,000,000.00), and that this recommendation will be forwarded to Budget Committee for its consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process.
4. Authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to execute Letters of Understanding on behalf of the City.

Financial Impact

This report recommends that the 2008 approved Operating Budget of \$1,613,800.00 for the AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program within CPIP be allocated to the projects detailed in Appendix B and C (\$1,513,800.00) and Schools Without Borders (\$100,000.00).

The recommendation to increase the 2009 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program from \$1,513,800.00 to \$2,000,000.00 will be forwarded to Budget Committee for its consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process and thus, this report has no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2008 Approved Operating Budget.

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

Summary

This report outlines the review process, funding applications and recommendations of the Board of Health AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel regarding allocations in 2008.

This report proposes funding allocations in the total amount of \$1,613,800.00 for the 2009 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program within the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) to be used between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

The sum of \$1,513,800.00 will be provided to 47 project applicants to carryout targeted HIV/AIDS prevention education programs in Toronto. In addition, \$100,000.00 be provided to Schools Without Borders (SWB) for the AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Global HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Background Information

2008 AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Allocation Recommendations - Chair's Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13562.pdf>)

HL15.9	Information			
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Toronto Public Health Capital Budget Variance Report for the Four Months Ended April 30, 2008

(May 27, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

This report provides an update to the Board of Health on the Toronto Public Health (TPH) Capital Budget variance for the four-month period ended April 30, 2008 (Appendix 1).

Toronto Public Health spent \$0.634 million or 13.7 percent of the 2008 approved cash flow of \$4.624 million as of April 30, 2008.

The year-end capital expenditure is projected to be \$3.749 million or 81.1 percent of the approved cash flow.

Background Information

Toronto Public Health Capital Budget Variance Report for the Four Months Ended April 30, 2008 - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13564.pdf>)

Toronto Public Health Capital Budget Variance Report for the Four Months Ended April 30, 2008 - Appendix 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13565.pdf>)

HL15.10	Information			
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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

Summary

Verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health

HL15.11	Information			
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Scarborough Local Health Committee Minutes

Summary

Minutes of the Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on April 15, 2008.

Background Information

Scarborough Local Health Committee Minutes - April 15, 2008

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13566.pdf>