
Board of Health

Meeting No.	16	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Thursday, July 3, 2008	Phone	416-392-8032
Start Time	1:00 PM	E-mail	boh@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 2, 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 - June 16, 2008

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

Communications/Reports

HL16.1	ACTION			
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Progress Report on a City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program

(June 18, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health forward this report and attachments to the Premier and Ontario Minister of Environment, and request the Ministry to develop a toxics use reduction program that addresses the health of urban residents by:
 - a. including the 25 substances that have been identified as a priority health concern in Toronto by the Medical Officer of Health on the list of chemicals to be addressed in the Provincial program;
 - b. setting substance reporting thresholds low enough to collect information on small and medium-sized facilities;
 - c. creating capacity-building programs on environmental reporting and pollution prevention for all affected facilities; and
 - d. ensuring disclosure and easy public access to information collected through the program;
2. the Medical Officer of Health report in October 2008 on the status of the provincial toxics use reduction program;
3. the Medical Officer of Health report as soon as sufficient details of the proposed provincial program become available on:
 - a. the extent to which it addresses the health of Toronto residents;

- b. reporting gaps, duplication and conflict, if any, between the provincial program and the proposed City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program; and
 - c. the appropriateness of adopting an Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Bylaw in Toronto;
4. funds in the amount of \$221,400 gross/\$55,350 net (including 2 positions) be included in the 2009 Operating Budget Submission for Toronto Public Health to develop and implement, in consultation with Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, Toronto Water, Toronto Environment Office, and provincial, industry and community partners, a pollution prevention program that:
- a. encourages businesses to reduce or eliminate the 25 priority substances;
 - b. includes an incentive program that provides rewards and recognition to facilities that adopt environmental best practices for pollution prevention;
 - c. provides pollution prevention resources and outreach to Toronto facilities; and
 - d. supports the implementation of other City of Toronto programs that encourage environmental improvements such as energy, electricity and water conservation, smog and greenhouse gas reduction, water quality and climate change adaptation; and
5. this report be forwarded to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process.

Financial Impact

This report recommends that the Board of Health 2009 Operating Budget Submission include funds in the amount of \$221,400 gross/\$55,350 net (including 2 positions) for a new pollution prevention program for City of Toronto. This request will result in an annualization impact of \$98,800 gross / \$24,700 net in the Toronto Public Health 2010 Operating Budget.

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

Summary

Over the past three years, Toronto Public Health (TPH) has examined ways to track and reduce exposure to harmful substances that are used or released by industrial, commercial and institutional facilities in the city. TPH has examined which substances are present in our local environment, reviewed approaches used across North America, and consulted extensively with businesses, residents and community organizations on options to reduce the use and release of toxic substances that would best suit Toronto.

TPH has developed an Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program that would track and reduce key toxic substances present in Toronto's environment, and especially its air. The proposed program would not duplicate existing reporting programs, but rather would provide

important new information that is not captured through the National Pollutant Release Inventory given its much higher reporting thresholds.

This report describes the key elements of a proposed municipal Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program which would require local businesses and City of Toronto operations to track and publicly report their use and release of substances of priority health concern (“the 25 priority substances”), and support them in finding ways to reduce these hazardous substances. Attached is a technical document that provides details of the proposed program, including a draft bylaw.

The provincial government recently announced its intention to develop an Ontario-wide toxics use reduction program, and is expected to provide details of the program later this summer. Given the potential for overlap between this provincial initiative and the City’s Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) needs to learn more about the province’s emerging toxics use strategy so as to ensure that the proposed Toronto program does not conflict with or duplicate the provincial program.

Following a review of the provincial program, the MOH will report back to the Board of Health on the extent of overlap, if any, between the provincial program and the proposed City of Toronto program. The MOH will make recommendations on the appropriateness of adopting an Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Bylaw for Toronto that does not conflict with or duplicate proposed provincial legislation.

Local businesses and the community would benefit from increased information and support for pollution prevention, under either new provincial legislation or a Toronto-based reporting program. This report therefore recommends that TPH develops and implements, in consultation with City divisions and other partners, a new pollution prevention program for Toronto businesses that supports reduction or elimination of the 25 priority substances.

Background Information

Progress Report on a City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13981.pdf>

A Proposed Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program for the City of Toronto - Technical Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13982.pdf>

HL16.2	ACTION			
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Reducing Electromagnetic Field Exposure from Hydro Corridors

(June 18, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council adopt the following policy of prudent avoidance to reduce childhood exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) in and adjacent to hydro corridors with transmission lines such that:
 - a. when the City plans new multi-use trails, garden allotment, recreational or parkland uses in or abutting a hydro corridor, the appropriate division undertake an EMF management plan and design the layout to minimize the increase in yearly average exposure to EMF for young children; and
 - b. when applications are received for official plan and zoning bylaw amendments or plan of subdivisions for residential, school or day nursery uses on property that abuts a hydro corridor, the Chief Planner request the applicant to undertake an EMF management plan which outlines low or no-cost measures to minimize the increase in yearly average exposure to EMF for young children;
2. City Council request Toronto Hydro to report to the Board of Health on current and potential measures to reduce EMF emissions when new equipment used in the distribution of electricity is installed or existing equipment is modified;
3. City Council request the provincial Minister of Energy to direct Hydro One to continue to incorporate practical low-cost measures to reduce EMF emissions when new equipment used in the transmission of electricity is installed or existing equipment is modified;
4. when new high-voltage transmission lines or increases in the capacity of existing transmission lines are proposed within the City of Toronto, the Chief Planner, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, request the proponent to undertake a health impact assessment to evaluate options available to minimise any increase to the yearly average exposure to EMF in Toronto; and
5. the Board of Health forward this report to Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, other Boards of Health in Ontario, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, Waterfront Secretariat, Toronto Hydro, Hydro One, Canadian Electricity Association, Canadian Standards Association, Ontario College of Family Physicians, and the Ontario Medical Association.

Financial Impact

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

Summary

The use and transmission of electricity creates electromagnetic fields (EMF). Common sources in urban areas include electric appliances, building wiring, and electricity transmission lines. Background levels of EMF in urban areas are usually less than 1 milligauss (mG). However, overall levels of EMF in and right next to hydro corridors can be higher than those usually found both indoors and outdoors elsewhere in Toronto.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies the magnetic component of EMF as a possible carcinogen because of the association between exposures to EMF magnetic fields in the home and childhood leukemia. Given the possible link between the exposure to EMF and an increase in the risk of leukemia in children, taking practical low or no-cost actions to reduce exposures to young children is prudent.

This report proposes that the City continue with a policy of prudent avoidance and take simple steps that would minimise exposures to EMF from hydro corridors for young children. It recognizes that recreational, trail and park uses of hydro corridors have health benefits for children and adults who use them which outweigh any potential risk from EMF exposure.

The proposed policy would require City divisions to design new recreational, trail and park uses in hydro corridors so as to minimize childhood exposure to EMF. For new developments of residential, schools and day nursery uses next to a hydro corridor, the applicant would be requested to do an EMF management plan that includes low or no-cost solutions in the design and layout of the building and property to reduce childhood exposures to EMF. When new or upgraded transmission lines are proposed within Toronto, the City would request the proponent do a health impact assessment and an EMF management plan that outlines the measures that can be taken to minimize any increase in exposure to EMF in Toronto.

Background Information

Reducing Electromagnetic Field Exposure from Hydro Corridors - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13980.pdf>

HL16.3	ACTION			
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Feasibility of Mandatory Installation of Idle Reduction Technologies

(June 13, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health request the Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, in collaboration with Ontario's Minister of Transportation to mandate idle-reduction technologies in new vehicles and promote idle-reduction; and
2. the Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health in collaboration with the General Manager of Transportation Services to report on the implications of amending the City's Idling Control Bylaw to reduce permitted idling from three minutes to ten seconds.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary

Vehicle idling is a preventable source of air pollution. This report responds to the Board of

Health's request to report on the availability of anti-idling technologies and the feasibility of phasing-in mandatory installation of such technology for motor vehicles operating in the City of Toronto.

Available idle-reduction technologies range from technologies designed to monitor idling behaviour to those that can be installed in the vehicle or in parking and rest stops. Some issues that affect the feasibility of their mandatory installation include cost, jurisdictional authority, driver preferences, and suitability for specific applications. Fleet Services is already using and testing various idle-reduction technologies and the Toronto Transit Commission and Fleet Services use hybrid vehicles which reduce idling in traffic.

Education, evaluation, and written policies are key to idle reduction strategies. Adoption of idle-reduction technologies by businesses has likely been limited by lack of awareness about available technologies and their potential pay-back over time by reducing fuel consumption. Public Health, Transportation Services, Fleet Services, and the Toronto Transit Commission already conduct some public education. Reducing the permitted idling time in the City's Idling Control Bylaw from three minutes to ten seconds would help promote the message that idling is unnecessary, and aid enforcement and contribute to a reduction of traffic related air pollution. The feasibility of amending the current municipal bylaw to reduce permitted idling from three minutes to ten seconds should be investigated.

Background Information

Feasibility of Mandatory Installation of Idle Reduction Technologies
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13978.pdf>

HL16.4	Information			
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Further Information on A Guide to Eating Fish for Women, Children and Families

(June 18, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

On April 21, 2008, Toronto Public Health (TPH) introduced its new fish consumption resource, A Guide to Eating Fish for Women, Children and Families. The information was presented in both brochure (guide) and wallet card formats. This report responds to requests for clarification raised by members of the Board of Health about the approach used to develop the guidance on fish consumption, focussing on a discussion of how fish were categorized by content of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

TPH assessed the risks concerning exposure to PCBs from consuming fish such as farmed salmon using the most recent Canadian data. Consistent with the recent conclusions of other researchers examining the issue, TPH's assessment indicates that PCB levels in farmed salmon available in Canada have decreased in recent years. As a result, farmed salmon can be placed in the Safe to Eat Often category.

TPH has also further refined the resources to ensure both health and sustainability messages are clear and is finalizing its distribution plan.

Background Information

Further Information on A Guide to Eating Fish for Women, Children and Families - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13986.pdf>)

HL16.5	ACTION			
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Toronto Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report and Membership Update

Confidential Attachment - Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

(June 17, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Toronto Food Policy Council's Terms of Reference adopted by the Board of Health on April 4, 2005, be extended to the end of this Council term in November, 2010; and
2. the individuals named in confidential Attachment 3 be appointed to the Toronto Food Policy Council until the end of this Council term in 2010.

Financial Impact

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

Summary

This report outlines Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) activities during 2007 and early 2008, with special attention to TFPC activities supporting Toronto Public Health's development of a comprehensive food strategy for Toronto (Attachment 1).

Most current members of the Toronto Food Policy Council were appointed by the Board of Health in 2005 for three-year terms. Eight members were appointed for shorter terms at a June, 2007 meeting of the Board of Health. The terms for all members have now expired, and new members need to be appointed by the Board of Health. Extension of the Terms of Reference approved in 2005 also needs to be considered.

Background Information

Toronto Food Policy Council 2007 Annual Report and Membership Update - Staff Report
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13987.pdf>)

HL16.6	Information			
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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

Summary

Verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health

HL16.7	Information			
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Toronto Street Food Pilot Implementation

Summary

The Chair and the Medical Officer of Health will give a verbal update on this matter.

HL16.8	Presentation			
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Presentation by Street Health - The Street Health Report 2007

Summary

Laura Cowan, Executive Director, Street Health, will give a presentation to the Board of Health on the report entitled "The Street Health Report 2007". A copy of this report was previously provided to all members of the Board of Health and is available at the following web site:

<http://www.streethealth.ca/Downloads/SHReport2007.pdf>

HL16.9	ACTION			
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Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation - Changes to the Accreditation Process and Standards

(June 6, 2008) Letter from the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation addressed to the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

The Medical Officer of Health has forwarded this letter to the Board of Health with the request that members give consideration to serving on a work group to prepare a response to the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA). In the meantime, the Medical Officer of Health is requesting that OCCHA extend the June 30, 2008, deadline to allow the

Board to submit a response to the 2008 Accreditation Principles, Standards, Components and Definitions.

Background Information

Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation - Letter

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-14301.pdf>)