
Board of Health

Meeting No.	18	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Wednesday, October 22, 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 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	Vaijyanthi Chari	Valerie Sterling
Councillor Chin Lee		

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

Confirmation of Minutes - September 18 , 2008

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

Communications/Reports

HL18.1	Information			
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Health Inequalities

Summary

A report from the Medical Officer of Health on this matter will be distributed with the supplementary agenda.

HL18.2	ACTION			
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Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket - Toronto 2008

(October 7, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health request 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. 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;
3. the Board of Health forward this report 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 and the Dietitians of Canada.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Summary

This report provides information on the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) in Toronto for 2008 and recommends measures to improve health through increased access to nutritious food for individuals and families living on low incomes in Toronto. The Nutritious Food Basket is a food costing tool used to measure the cost of a basic level of healthy eating in each Board of Health jurisdiction in Ontario.

The average weekly cost of basic nutritious food for a family of four in Toronto in 2008 is \$136.28 (\$590.09 per month). This is an increase of 2.4% over 2007. Over the last two years, the cost of the NFB has increased by approximately 9.4%.

The impact of rising food prices is more significant for low income people since they must allocate a greater portion of their income to purchase food. A family on social assistance or earning minimum wage requires approximately 30% of their income to purchase nutritious food, while a household that earns the median income for Ontario requires approximately 10% of their income to purchase nutritious food.

The provincial government has committed to developing a poverty reduction plan. Although the provincial government has taken several positive steps to help reduce poverty including the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), announcing a 2% increase in social assistance rates in 2008, and increasing minimum wage to \$8.75/hour in March 2008, individuals and families living on social assistance or working at minimum wage still cannot afford shelter, nutritious food and other necessities required for good health.

The absence of effective action to correct this situation leaves the clear implication that malnutrition and poor health are acceptable consequences of official government policy.

Background Information

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>)

HL18.3	Information			
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Participatory Health Research in Toronto's Racialized Communities

(October 7, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Summary

Toronto Public Health undertook an environmental scan to gain a better understanding of the community-based participatory research projects that have been completed, are currently underway or are being planned in Toronto examining the health of racialized groups (including the impact of poverty). The purpose of this report is to provide a broad overview of the scan results to form the basis for a dialogue regarding further opportunities for collaboration and support in this area.

Community-based participatory research represents a rich and growing source of information, which has the potential to inform the development of programs and policies by community-based organizations, Toronto Public Health, other city services, and different levels of government. It can identify the needs of community residents that have not been elucidated through other means. It is particularly useful when combined with other types of research as it provides a context for other data that are being generated.

Background Information

Participatory Health Research in Toronto's Racialized Communities - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16113.pdf>

HL18.4	Information			
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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

(October 7, 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 (TPH) has made in its pandemic influenza preparedness activities since the last report to the Board of Health. A new version of the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic (OHPIP) has recently been released and highlights are reported here. This report also summarizes the recommendations recently issued by the Pan-Canadian Public Health Network Council on the use of antivirals for prevention during an influenza pandemic.

Background Information

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16108.pdf>
 Attachment 1 - Highlights from Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic 2008
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16109.pdf>

HL18.5	ACTION			
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Toronto Public Health 2008 Operating Budget Adjustment

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

Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends to City Council that:

1. the Toronto Public Health 2008 base Operating Budget be increased by \$115.0 thousand gross and \$0.0 net, and a staff increase of 1.0 permanent position, to reflect confirmed funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion.

Financial Impact

In 2005 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) introduced 100% funding to support tobacco control programs in public health units across the province. Existing tobacco inspection and enforcement activities which were previously cost shared are now 100% provincially funded under the Smoke-Free Ontario (SFO) Strategy, administered by the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP). Recently, additional 100% funding for new tobacco prevention activities has been provided.

A budget adjustment of \$115.0 thousand gross and \$0.0 thousand net is required to reflect confirmed base funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion in the Toronto Public Health 2008 Operating Budget, for the Smoke Free Ontario program. The funding will be used to establish an Aboriginal youth cluster in the Youth Action Alliance area. This will involve the hiring of one permanent full-time Youth Advisor and recruiting up to ten Aboriginal youth peer leaders.

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to request a budget adjustment to Toronto Public Health's (TPH) 2008 Operating Budget due to confirmation of additional base funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion.

Background Information

Toronto Public Health 2008 Operating Budget Adjustment - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16114.pdf>

HL18.6	Information			
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Toronto Street Food Pilot Implementation

Summary

A report from the Medical Officer of Health on this matter will be distributed with the supplementary agenda.

HL18.7	Information			
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2008 Public Health Champion Awards

Summary

Vaijayanthi Chari and Wangari Muriuki, Co-Chairs, Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee, to announce the recipients of the 2008 Public Health Champion Awards.

HL18.8	Information			
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2009 Approved Schedule of Meetings

Summary

City Council, on September 24 and 25, 2008, approved the 2009 Schedule of Meetings listing the following Board of Health meetings for 2009:

Monday, January 19, 2009;
 Tuesday, February 10 2009;
 Monday, April 20, 2009;
 Tuesday, May 19, 2009;
 Monday, June 15, 2009;
 Monday, September 21, 2009;
 Monday, October 19, 2009; and
 Monday, November 16, 2009.

Background Information

2009 Schedule of Meetings

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-16127.pdf>)