

Public Health Champion Awards

Date:	May 5, 2008
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

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.

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.

DECISION HISTORY

The Public Health Champion Awards have been created as a legacy initiative for the 125th Anniversary celebrations. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or organization to public health in Toronto. At the February 2008 Board of Health meeting, a resolution was adopted to establish the award and a sub-committee was formed to develop a nomination and selection process for the inaugural awards. Sub-committee members are Councillor Gord Perks, Vaijyanthi Chari and Wangari Muriuki.

COMMENTS

The awards sub-committee of the Board convened in April to consult with staff and together with the Medical Officer of Health is proposing a nomination and selection process for the Public Health Champion Awards.

Following consideration of a literature search, a review of other jurisdictions, and an assessment of options that would be most suitable for Toronto, it is recommended that two awards be presented annually, one to an individual and one to an organization. The Board of Health should form a Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee annually that is comprised of three members of the Board of Health and one member of each of the four Local Health Committees who is not a member of the Board of Health.

This report proposes the timelines and processes for the 2008 awards. It is recommended that the timelines for future years (e.g. date of the call for nominations) be reviewed upon completion of the process in this inaugural year and revised as necessary.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be adjudicated by the selection committee based on demonstrated achievements in one or more of the following four categories, reflecting the goals and directions of the current TPH Strategic Plan:

1. **Providing leadership in efforts to reduce health inequalities**, for example: in advocating for public policies that address determinants of health; in contributing to the advancement of public health knowledge and evidence base.
2. **Fostering collaboration to improve the health of the population**, for example: in forging partnerships across sectors and among diverse groups; in developing knowledge transfer strategies to promote awareness and deepen commitments.
3. **Building community capacity through innovative health promotion strategies**, for example: in devising novel approaches to cross-cultural communications; in empowering marginalized and vulnerable populations.
4. **Achieving impact by acting as a catalyst for positive change**, for example: in mobilizing resources to respond to an emerging public health issue; in affecting measurable outcomes of public health indicators.

Nomination process

The 2008 call for nominations will be issued in the first week of June and the nomination process will be open for six weeks, closing July 11, 2008. To be eligible for nomination, an individual must be a resident of Toronto and organizations must be located in Toronto. Current and former members of the Board of Health and current and retired Toronto Public Health staff are not eligible for this award. Nominations may be submitted by a person who is not a member of the Award Selection committee.

To promote nominations for the award, a combination of outreach strategies will be used, including a media release and electronic promotion through various public health and community networks. The call for nominations will be posted on the City of Toronto Awards Portal (www.toronto.ca/awards/index.htm).

A Public Health Champion Award page will be created on the Toronto Public Health web site. Nomination forms will be available on this site in a PDF format. Each nomination must include a statement describing why the nominee should be recognized as a Public Health Champion in the City of Toronto, with specific reference to one or more of the four criteria outlined above. The nomination form also requires a brief resume/profile of the nominee and two letters of support.

The 2008 Public Health Champion Award Selection Committee will be comprised of seven members, including the three sub-committee members of the Board of Health previously designated and one representative from each of the four Local Health Committees (representatives to be determined).

The selection committee will convene in September to consider all nominations and report its decisions to the October meeting of the Board of Health. Award recipients will be notified by mail and invited to participate in a public awards ceremony. This ceremony will be planned to coincide with events scheduled for the 125th anniversary celebrations, such as the archival exhibit of Public Health work or the Symposium on Determinants of Health.

In summary, the following schedule will be the 2008 calendar of activities:

Call for Nominations opens:	Monday, June 2
Call for Nominations closes:	Friday, July 11
Selection Committee Convenes:	Mid-September
Notification of Award Recipients:	Week of September 29
Award Ceremony:	Late October

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SIGNATURE

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