

Board of Health

Meeting No.	11	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Monday, January 21, 2008	Phone	416-392-8032
Start Time	1:00 PM	E-mail	boh@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Board of Health’s Report to City Council or to the Minutes for the official record.

How to Read the Decision Document:

- *Recommendations of the Board of Health to City Council appear after the item heading.*
- *Any amendments by the Board to recommendations appearing in a staff report are italicized.*
- *Other action taken by the Board on its own authority, which does not require Council’s approval, is listed in the decision document under the heading “Decision Advice and Other Information ”.*
- *Declarations of Interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

Minutes Confirmed – December 4, 2007

HL11.1	ACTION	Adopted		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Election of Chair for 2008

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health elected Councillor John Filion as Chair of the Board of Health for the year 2008 and until a successor is elected.

Summary

Election of Chair for 2008

HL11.2	ACTION	Adopted		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Election of Vice-Chair for 2008

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health elected Councillor Janet Davis as Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for the year 2008 and until a successor is elected.

Summary

Election of Vice-Chair for 2008

Communications

(January 14, 2008) letter from Councillor Janet Davis (HL.New.HL11.2.1)

HL11.3	ACTION	Amended		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Losing Ground: The Persistent Growth of Family Poverty in Canada's Largest City

(January 7, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. endorsed the following recommendations from the United Way of Greater Toronto report *Losing Ground: The Persistent Growth of Family Poverty in Canada's Largest City* and communicate their endorsement to Premier McGuinty and Prime Minister Harper:
 - a. that a poverty reduction strategy for Ontario be developed by the Provincial government that sets clear poverty reduction targets and aggressive timelines for achieving those targets, with specific targets and timelines for Toronto;
 - b. the strategy take into account the unique low income challenges facing the City of Toronto and the poor social and health outcomes associated with them;
 - c. all levels of government and other community stakeholders engage in the development of this strategy, so that all components of the social safety net are examined and funded, including policies and programs focussed on housing security, employment security, and child care;
 - d. the strategy address the significant decline in employment insurance coverage for unemployed workers and the related decline in access to employment

supports and training and better protect and support employees in precarious employment;

- e. the Federal government, through Statistics Canada, work with representatives from municipal and provincial governments and research and labour organizations to develop strategies for the routine collection of precarious employment data at the city level; and
 - f. *the provincial government develop rigorous new regulatory measures to protect consumers from usurious rates of interest, set interest rate caps and limits on fees and charges, and prohibit practices that trap people with low incomes in a debt cycle;*
2. commended the United Way of Greater Toronto for drawing attention and calling for action regarding the diminishing capacity of Toronto families to meet the high cost of living in Toronto;
 3. *applauded the Ontario Government for its commitment to a comprehensive poverty strategy and recommends that this be a top government priority; and further that the Cabinet Committee be encouraged to move quickly in reversing the alarming increase in poverty rates by immediately increasing the minimum wages and social assistance rates indexed to true costs of basic needs;*
 4. requested the Ministry of Health Promotion to fund research to develop a tool that Boards of Health can use to identify the annual real costs associated with raising a child/children and that the tool be used to promote policy change;
 5. *advocated to the Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development to review the eligibility of Employment Insurance for unemployed workers;*
 6. *decided to join forces with the Toronto City Summit Alliance and other City bodies urging reform of Employment Insurance;*
 7. *requested the Medical Officer of Health to collaborate with local Non-Profit Organizations in developing strategies to reduce the gender gap and family poverty in the City of Toronto;*
 8. *recommended to Statistics Canada that disaggregated data from Statistics Canada be available to public policy organizations without fee;*
 9. forwarded this report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee and Children's Services Advisory Committee for information; and
 10. forwarded this report to the Toronto Best Start Network, Child Health Network, Family Services Association, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Jewish Child and Family Services of Toronto, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, United Way of Greater Toronto, provincial Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Health Promotion, and Health and Long-Term Care,

Ontario Public Health Association, Canadian Public Health Association, Campaign 2000, Canadian Paediatric Society, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Labour Congress, Statistics Canada, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, and Workers' Action Centre, *the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, and the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud.*

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact.

Summary

In November 2007, the United Way of Greater Toronto released *Losing Ground: The Persistent Growth of Family Poverty in Canada's Largest City*. This report described how Toronto families with children are faring financially relative to families in the rest of the country (1). The purpose of this Board of Health report is to provide a summary of *Losing Ground* and to seek endorsement of specific recommendations contained within the United Way report.

A copy of the full report can be found at:

<http://www.uwgt.org/whoWeHelp/reports/pdf/LosingGround-fullReport.pdf>

Background Information

Losing Ground: The Persistent Growth of Family Poverty in Canada's Largest City
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9847.pdf>

Communications

Submission from Frances Lankin, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Greater Toronto (HL.New.HL11.3.1)

HL11.4	ACTION	Adopted		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Smoke-Free Vehicle Legislation: Amendment of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act

(January 7, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. endorsed Bill 11, an Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act to protect children and youth under 16 years of age from second-hand smoke in motor vehicles.
2. wrote letters of support for Bill 11 to the Premier, Minister of Health Promotion and Toronto area Members of Provincial Parliament.

3. forwarded this report to all Boards of Health in Ontario for similar endorsement and advocacy with the Premier, Minister of Health Promotion and Members of Provincial Parliament.

Financial Impact

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Summary

This report seeks endorsement from the Board of Health for Bill 11, an Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act to protect children and youth under 16 years of age from second hand smoke (SHS) in motor vehicles. This legislation will protect the health of children by prohibiting smoking in a vehicle when a child under 16 years of age is present.

The risks from SHS have been well documented. A recent position paper by the Ontario Medical Association indicates that exposure to SHS in a vehicle is 23 times more toxic due to the enclosed space (1). Children are among the most vulnerable to the damaging health effects of second hand smoke. When exposed to SHS, children are at a greater risk of developing bronchitis, pneumonia, colds, ear infections and asthma, while infants have an increased chance of dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (2).

Toronto Public Health's Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program includes a strong emphasis on reducing exposures to environmental tobacco smoke. Despite concerted efforts to educate and promote awareness about the harmful effects to children from exposure to SHS in vehicles, approximately 22 per cent of Torontonians report that they allow smoking in their vehicles (3). One in ten reported exposure at least once a week, while one in thirty reported exposure to SHS in a vehicle on a daily basis.

Background Information

Smoke-Free Vehicle Legislation: Amendment of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9848.pdf>

Communications

(January 17, 2008) letter from Dr. G. Allen Heimann, Medical Officer of Health and Board Secretary, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (HL.New.HL11.4.1)

HL11.5	ACTION	Amended		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

US Court Decision on Transboundary Air Pollution

(December 18, 2007) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Board Recommendations

The Board of Health recommends that:

1. City Council commend the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Attorneys General of Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, for their commitment to reducing air pollution through U.S. Power plant litigation, and in particular, their intervention in the case against American Electric Power Corporation, Inc., the result of which will lead to improvements in Toronto's air quality, diminish the frequency and severity of smog episodes, and reduce the health impact of air pollution in Toronto.
2. City Council thank the following organizations for their championship of the case against American Electric Power Corporation, Inc.: Ohio Citizen Action, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Hoosier Environmental Council, Valley Watch, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Environmental Council, Clean Air Council, Izaak Walton League of America, United States, Public Interest Research Group, National Wildlife Federation, Indiana Wildlife Federation, League of Ohio Sportsmen, Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defence Council.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. requested the Medical Officer of Health to write to the Ontario Minister of Energy urging a ban on non-emergency exports of coal-fired power to the United States; and
2. commended the Medical Officer of Health, the City Solicitor and City Council for taking action in this case and for their accomplishments which will lead to improvements in Toronto's air quality and the health of Torontonians.

Financial Impact

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

Summary

In 2000, City Council authorized the City Solicitor to seek status as a Friend of the Court (Amicus Curiae) in a civil lawsuit against American Electric Power (AEP). The City submitted information on the impact of transboundary air pollution from U.S. coal-fired electric plants on Toronto's population. Up to fifty percent of the air pollution that affects Toronto, especially during smog episodes, comes from the United States.

In 2001, the American court granted Friend of the Court status to Toronto. The City Solicitor and the Medical Officer of Health prepared a legal brief in support of the legal arguments advanced by the plaintiffs.

A settlement was announced in the lawsuit on October 9, 2007. The settlement requires AEP to reduce air emissions from its sixteen coal-fired power plants. These reductions will translate into better air quality in Toronto and will bring about improved health for people living here. If related lawsuits which are ongoing in the United States have a similar positive outcome, the health benefits to Toronto will increase as transboundary air pollution decreases. The State

Attorneys General of the eight states, as well as the twelve NGOs that participated in the litigation, should be recognized for their leadership in addressing air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

Background Information

US Court Decision on Transboundary Air Pollution

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9849.pdf>)

Communications

Submission from Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance (HL.New.HL11.5.1)

(January 21, 2008) Submission from Toronto Public Health (HL.New.HL11.5.2)

HL11.6	ACTION	Amended		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Dog and Cat Licensing Strategy - 2008 Operating Budget Request

(January 9, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. approved, in principle, the recommendations in the report (January 9, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled "Dog & Cat Licensing Strategy – 2008 Operating Budget Request";
2. referred the report (January 9, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health to either the Board of Health Budget Sub-Committee or the Animal Services Sub-Committee, for consideration, with the understanding that the Board's approval is based on this initiative being at zero net cost to Toronto Public Health's 2008 Recommended Operating Budget;
3. requested the Board of Health Budget Sub-Committee or the Animal Services Sub-Committee to report directly to the Budget Committee if they are in agreement with the recommendations in the report (January 9, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health and, if not, to submit this matter to the Board of Health for consideration at its meeting on February 26, 2008; and
4. appointed Councillor Janet Davis to the Animal Services Sub-Committee.

Financial Impact

The 2008 Operating Budget Request for an additional 26 positions (14 FTEs), at a cost of \$833,100 gross and \$0 net be included in the 2008 Recommended Operating Budget for Toronto Public Health (TPH). In 2007, the Strategy will have a shortfall of \$330,000 that will be absorbed within the overall under-spending in the Toronto Animal Services Budget.

Summary

In 2006, City Council approved the Dog & Cat Licensing Strategy as a means of increasing the percentage of dogs and cats licensed in the City of Toronto. This approval was based on annual

reporting of the success of the initiative. To date, Toronto Animal Services (TAS) has been successful in increasing the licences and the revenue associated with this initiative.

Continuation of the Dog & Cat Licensing Strategy into 2008 will allow TAS to continue to promote responsible pet ownership, increase the percentage of licensed pets in the City of Toronto and increase the revenue stream associated with licensing. Revenues generated from this initiative are used to fund needed enhancements to the service.

Background Information

Dog and Cat Licensing Strategy - 2008 Operating Budget Request
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9850.pdf>

HL11.7	ACTION	Adopted		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Appointment of 2008 Review Panels for the AIDS Prevention and Drug Prevention Community Investment Programs

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

(December 18, 2007) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. appointed the individuals listed in confidential attachment 3 to the AIDS Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel for 2008 and the Drug Prevention Community Investment Program Review Panel for 2008; and
2. directed the City Clerk to make the appointees' names public once appointed by the Board.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Summary

The report recommends members of the Review Panels for the 2008 AIDS Prevention and Drug Prevention Community Investment Programs for appointment by the Board of Health. The individuals proposed for the panel membership are listed in confidential attachment 3.

Background Information

Appointment of 2008 Review Panels for the AIDS Prevention and Drug Prevention Community Investment Programs

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9851.pdf>)

HL11.8	ACTION	Adopted		
--------	--------	---------	--	--

Board of Health Representation and Attendance at 2008 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Meetings

(January 10, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. approved the participation of the Board of Health's representative or alternate at all ALPHA Board meetings, ALPHA Board of Health Section meetings and ALPHA semi-annual meetings/conferences in 2008 and pay expenses associated with this participation; and
2. approved the participation of its members at any ALPHA Board of Health Section meetings and semi-annual meetings/conferences held in Toronto (see Attachment 1 for the first semi annual meeting) in 2008 and pay expenses associated with this participation.

Financial Impact

Funds to pay expenses for Board of Health members to attend ALPHA meetings are within the 2008 Recommended Toronto Public Health Operating Budget. The Board of Health approves use of these funds.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to request that the Board of Health approve the payment of expenses for the participation of Board of Health members at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) meetings/conferences for 2008.

Background Information

Board of Health Representation and Attendance at 2008 Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Meetings

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9855.pdf>)

HL11.9	Information	Received		
--------	-------------	----------	--	--

Ontario Public Health Standards Protocols Consultation

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the verbal update on the Ontario Public Health Standards Protocols Consultation and thanked the following members who volunteered to work with the Medical Officer of Health to prepare a response to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care by the deadline of February 15, 2008:

- Fiona Nelson;
- Valerie Sterling;
- Wangari Muriuki; and
- Trustee Soo Wong.

Summary

Verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health

HL11.10	Information	Received		
---------	-------------	----------	--	--

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the verbal update on pandemic influenza.

Summary

Verbal update by the Medical Officer of Health

HL11.11	Information	Received		
---------	-------------	----------	--	--

Local Health Committee Minutes

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the Minutes of the following Local Health Committee meetings:

- Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on October 9, 2007.
- North York Local Health Committee meeting held on October 9, 2007.
- Etobicoke/York Local Health Committee meeting held on November 8, 2007.

Summary

- Minutes of the Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on October 9, 2007.
- Minutes of the North York Local Health Committee meeting held on October 9, 2007.
- Minutes of the Etobicoke/York Local Health Committee meeting held on November 8, 2007.

Background Information

Scarborough Local Health Committee Minutes

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9852.pdf>)

North York Local Health Committee Minutes

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9853.pdf>)

Etobicoke/York Local Health Committee Minutes

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-9854.pdf>)

HL11.12	Information	Received		
---------	-------------	----------	--	--

Draft Discussion Paper on Toronto Food Strategy

(January 15, 2008) Member Motion from Penny Marrett, seconded by Marvin Greenberg

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the member motion from the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee.

Summary

Fiona Nelson requested that the Board of Health consider the following motion adopted by the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee at its last meeting:

“The Toronto/East York Local Health Committee commends unanimously the draft discussion paper on Toronto Food Strategy and urges its continued development with the objective of establishing the first broad food strategy in Canada.”

HL11.13	Information	Received		
---------	-------------	----------	--	--

Protocol for Implementation of Ontario Regulation 243/07 - Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries

(October 19, 2007) Letter from Dr. Graham L. Pollett, Medical Officer of Health and Secretary-Treasurer, Middlesex-London Board of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the communication (October 19, 2007) from Dr. Graham L. Pollett, Medical Officer of Health and Secretary-Treasurer, Middlesex-London Board of Health.

Summary

Valerie Sterling requested that the Board of Health consider a letter (October 19, 2007) from the Middlesex-London Board of Health, endorsing the Protocol for Implementation of Ontario Regulation 243/07 - Schools, Private Schools and Day Nurseries.

HL11.14	ACTION	Adopted		
---------	--------	---------	--	--

2007 Performance Appraisal - Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health established a Sub-committee to conduct the 2007 Performance Appraisal for the Medical Officer of Health, with the following membership:

Councillor John Filion, Chair;
 Councillor Janet Davis, Vice-Chair;
 Alejandra Bravo;
 Wangari Muriuki; and
 Vaijayanthi Chari.

Summary

Board of Health to establish a Sub-Committee to conduct the 2007 Performance Appraisal for the Medical Officer of Health.

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-01-21	Afternoon	1:05 PM	3:40 PM	Public