

Board of Health

Meeting No.	14	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
Meeting Date	Tuesday, May 20, 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 – April 21, 2008

HL14.1	ACTION	Amended		
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Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. requested the Ontario Minister of Environment to:

- a. amend the wording of the proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act so that if there is a conflict between a municipal bylaw and the Act, the provision that is most restrictive of the cosmetic use of pesticides prevails;
 - b. clarify the timelines, enforcement provisions and resources for the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act implementation, particularly as they relate to municipalities that currently have pesticide bylaws;
 - c. *ensure funding for activities related to education and/or enforcement of provincial regulations under the Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act should these activities be required of municipalities;*
 - d. *make no exemption for weeds except for health reasons;*
 - e. *not exempt golf courses from the Act;*
 - f. *restrict the use of glyphosate (“Roundup”); and*
 - g. *delete Clause 7.1(2)5. “Other prescribed uses” from the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act;*
2. *communicated these recommendations to other Ontario Health Units, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), and municipalities with cosmetic pesticides by-laws for their support; and*
 3. *requested the Medical Officer of Health to submit a report to the Board of Health on what legal options might be available to the Board of Health and the City of Toronto to preserve our right to protect the health of the public if Bill 64 is adopted without the amendment proposed in Recommendation 1a.*

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts from this report.

Summary

Toronto’s Pesticide Bylaw (Municipal Code 612) came into effect on April 1, 2004 and restricts the outdoor cosmetic use of pesticides on all public and private property in the city. It was one of the first such bylaws passed in Ontario. Currently there are an estimated 29 pesticide bylaws in Ontario, and 140 across Canada.

On April 22, 2008 the provincial government introduced Bill 64, the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, to prohibit the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes across Ontario. The province is currently seeking public comment on the Act, and will introduce more detailed regulation following the consultation.

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) supports the intent of Bill 64. Toronto’s bylaw has been successful in reducing pesticide use, and the provincial ban on sales and use will further restrict pesticides and therefore reduce human exposure to these substances.

However, the Act as currently written would render existing municipal bylaws inoperative, including Toronto's. The provincial government has not yet defined many important details of the proposed Act, including exemptions and an implementation timeline. Depending on these details, portions of the proposed Bill may be weaker than the current Toronto bylaw and therefore less protective of health. The MOH recommends that the Board of Health communicate this concern to the provincial government during its consultation period.

Background Information

Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12740.pdf>)

Implications of the Proposed Provincial Cosmetic Pesticide Ban Act for the Toronto Pesticide Bylaw - Attachment 1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12831.pdf>)

Communications

(May 20, 2008) e-mail from Fran Maclure, Outreach Coordinator, Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN) (HL.New.HL14.1.1)

(May 7, 2008) letter from Joseph F. Castrilli and Justin S. Duncan, Canadian Environmental Law Association (HL.New.HL14.1.2)

HL14.2	ACTION	Amended		
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Strengthening Alcohol Policy in Ontario

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. endorsed the following advocacy requests to the provincial government, being considered as resolutions at the annual meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies in June 2008:
 - a. establish stricter advertising standards for alcohol, in particular with respect to youth;
 - b. create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse, as one component of a comprehensive prevention strategy;
 - c. *continue to restrict the retail sale of alcohol to government controlled stores;*
 - d. reduce the legal BAC (blood alcohol concentration) from 0.08% to 0.05%;

- e. enact a zero BAC limit for drivers under the age of 21 years;
- f. develop a comprehensive strategy for alcohol and other drugs based on the four components of prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement;
- g. *emphasize the need for significant enhancement of enforcement especially among young drivers; and*
- h. *determine what incentives would make 'designated driver' a more sought after position among teen drivers and that the Toronto Public Health 'Party in the Right Spirit' program undertake to do the same.*

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

Summary

Alcohol is the most widely used psychoactive drug in our society. Next to tobacco, alcohol creates the most health, social, economic and criminal harms to individuals, families and communities. The annual economic impact in Ontario of alcohol use is estimated at \$5.3 billion. In an effort to strengthen alcohol policy in Ontario, the Middlesex London Health Unit (MHLU) is proposing six resolutions for presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) in June 2008 (see Attachment 1). This report seeks to confirm Toronto Board of Health's (BOH) position on these resolutions to guide voting of Toronto Public Health and Board of Health representatives at that meeting.

The Board of Health has previously endorsed some of the proposed resolutions as part of targeted reports or its approval of the Toronto Drug Strategy. Specifically, the Board has supported the need for a comprehensive provincial strategy for alcohol and other drugs, restricting the sale of alcohol to government-owned and operated stores, and reducing the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit for driving from 0.08% to 0.05%.

In addition, based on scientific evidence, it is recommended that the Board of Health support the resolutions urging the provincial government to: enact a zero BAC limit on drivers until they reach the age of 21; to establish stricter advertising standards for alcohol and; to create an enhanced public education and promotion campaign on the negative health impacts of alcohol misuse.

Background Information

Strengthening Alcohol Policy in Ontario - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12741.pdf>

HL14.3	ACTION	Adopted		
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2008/2009 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

(May 1, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Committee Recommendations

The Board of Health recommends that:

1. City Council enter into agreements totalling \$2,799,340 with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$2,505,828.81) and the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$293,511.19) to administer the Community Partnership and Investment Program funding to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto.
2. City Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation (1), including the execution of agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Angel Foundation for Learning on behalf of the City.
3. City Council waive a requirement for crime and fidelity insurance in any current and future service subsidy agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Angel Foundation for Learning.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health forwarded this report, for information, to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Financial Impact

This report recommends that the 2008 approved Operating Budget of \$2,799,340 for the Student Nutrition Program to be allocated to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$2,505,828.81) and the Angel Foundation for Learning (\$293,511.19), with \$150,000 reserve for appeal purposes and capital enhancements.

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

Summary

This report requests that the Board of Health adopt the recommendations of the Toronto Partners for Student Nutrition (TPSN) Steering Committee regarding the 2008/2009 Student Nutrition Program service subsidy allocations.

The TPSN Steering Committee requests that the Board of Health recommend the City of Toronto execute agreements with the Angel Foundation for Learning and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, for a combined total of \$2,799,340. An amount of \$100,000 will be held for appeals and an additional \$50,000 for capital enhancements.

Background Information

2008/2009 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12744.pdf>

HL14.4	ACTION	Adopted		
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Public Health Champion Awards

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health approved the following recommendations:

1. that 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. that the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee be formed annually comprised of three members of the Board of Health and one member of each of the four Local Health Committees;
3. that the Board of Health members of the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee for 2008 are Councillor Gord Perks, Vijayanthi 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; and
5. a public ceremony be held to honour the 2008 award recipients.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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.

Background Information

Public Health Champion Awards - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12759.pdf>

HL14.5	Information	Amended		
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Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to include in his next written report on pandemic preparedness:

1. a comparison of anti-viral medication stockpiling, both for treatment and prophylaxis, for Canada, Ontario and other large jurisdictions throughout the world; and
2. the extent to which current stockpiling levels allow Toronto Public Health to adequately meet its responsibility.

Summary

The report provides updated information on the epidemiology of influenza and outlines the progress Toronto Public Health has made in its preparedness activities since the last report to the Board of Health.

Background Information

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Update

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12742.pdf>

Attachment 1 - Pandemic Influenza Planning Status (April 24, 2008)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12743.pdf>

HL14.6	Information	Received		
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Post-Tsunami Rebuilding Efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka and the Involvement of Toronto City Staff

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the presentation by Diane Chester, Toronto Water, Maria Herrera, Toronto Public Health, and Councillor Pam McConnell on the post-Tsunami rebuilding efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Summary

Presentation by staff showcasing post-Tsunami rebuilding efforts in Indonesia and Sri Lanka and the involvement of Toronto City staff who participated in assistance missions to the Tsunami-stricken communities.

HL14.7	Information	Amended		
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Mortality Trends in the Homeless Population in Toronto

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. received, for information, the report (May 5, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health and
2. given the excellent research done by Street Health on issues of health affecting the homeless population, requested that Street Health be invited to present its most recent report to the Board of Health.

Summary

This report is the first biannual update on mortality trends in the homeless population in the City of Toronto. The most recent available data from three sources of information on deaths among homeless people are summarized.

Background Information

Mortality Trends in the Homeless Population in Toronto - Staff Report
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12758.pdf>

HL14.8	Information	Received		
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Animal Services Revenues

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the report (May 5, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health.

Summary

Through the budget process, Toronto Animal Services (TAS) was directed to increase revenues by \$95,000 in 2008 in order to avoid service reductions in the areas of wildlife field response and owner surrender of pets. The 2008 budget approved by Council includes this additional revenue. The Medical Officer of Health was directed to report to the Board of Health on the details of achieving this additional revenue.

Additional revenue can be generated either by increasing fees or volume. A change to fees and

charges requires substantial business and financial analysis to reasonably predict the impact of the adjustments for service users and TAS operations. A preliminary analysis indicates that fee adjustments large enough to generate the full increase of \$95,000 in 2008 may have adverse effects on the achievement of program objectives. Although the budget was premised on potential fee adjustments to be implemented in the spring, this timeframe does not provide Animal Services sufficient time to fully investigate and analyze the situation and to mitigate potential impacts. Animal Services will undertake this analysis during 2008.

Without adjusting fees and charges, there are only two service areas where volumes can possibly be increased to impact revenue: licensing and adoptions. However, it should be noted that licensing already has a very aggressive revenue target to achieve, and program expenditures in this area have already been reduced. It is too early in the year to forecast revenue achievement.

To improve the lives of animals and achieve required revenues, Animal Services will make every effort to increase the number of animals adopted by the public through a public awareness campaign that promotes TAS animal adoptions and the requirement to license pets.

Background Information

Animal Services Revenues - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12745.pdf>)

HL14.9	Information	Amended		
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Toronto Animal Services Program Review

(April 29, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health and Deputy City Manager

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health endorsed the following motion by Councillor Fletcher and referred it to the City Manager for review and report to the appropriate Committee:

"That the Board of Health recommend to City Council that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to develop a 3-5 year strategic plan for Toronto Animal Services, such plan:
 - a. to include strategies to enhance and further develop the core services provided by Toronto Animal Services;
 - b. to include strategies to provide affordable spay and neuter services in the City of Toronto; and
 - c. to be developed within twelve months of the transfer date.

2. City Council establish a Council reference group on animal services:
 - a. to advise the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards in the development and implementation of the strategic plan;
 - b. to be composed of three Members of Council;
 - c. to be appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Striking Committee following a canvass of Members by the City Clerk; and
 - d. for a period ending with the end of the current term of Council.
3. The Medical Officer of Health assist Municipal Licensing and Standards with transitional communications support to Toronto Animal Services."

Summary

Toronto Animal Services (TAS) was selected as one of ten programs to undergo program review in 2006/2007. The review of TAS is now complete and implementation of recommendations from the review will occur in 2008.

The review of TAS was designed to focus primarily on two objectives:

1. to determine whether wildlife field response should continue to be provided by the City; and
2. to determine where, in the City's current administrative structure, TAS should be located to support service delivery.

The review concluded that TAS should continue to provide field response for ill, injured, orphaned or otherwise distressed wildlife. The review also found that the "best fit" placement for TAS within the City's current administrative structure is within the Municipal Licensing and Standards (ML&S) Division, where core service objectives could be more closely aligned.

Background Information

Toronto Animal Services Program Review - Staff Report
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12760.pdf>)

HL14.10	Information	Amended		
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Pigeon Feeding

(May 5, 2008) Report from Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to forward a copy of his report (May 5, 2008) on this issue to Deputy City Manager Richard Butts for his information and review.

Summary

Large number of pigeons (more properly known as the Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*) in urban settings can result in damage to private property and impair the enjoyment and use of private and public property, but only rarely cause disease in people. This report provides information on Toronto Public Health's response to health issues posed by pigeons. In addition, strategies for addressing excessive pigeon feeding at the municipal level in Ontario and elsewhere are described.

This report is submitted in response to the Board of Health (February 26, 2008) request to report on ways to curtail excessive feeding of pigeons and to include information on what other municipalities are doing in this regard.

From time to time, City officials receive public complaints relating to the excessive feeding of pigeons. In these situations, large numbers of birds (hundreds) are attracted to neighbourhoods where they create a public nuisance; interfere with the enjoyment and use of private property; and cause property damage. In rare situation where pigeons may pose a risk to people's health, Toronto Public Health (TPH) can intervene under existing provincial legislation. This report provides current and historical information to inform the Board on this issue.

Background Information

Pigeon Feeding - Staff Report

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12761.pdf>

HL14.11	Information	Received		
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Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations

(April 9, 2008) Report from Auditor General

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health received, for information, the report (April 9, 2008) from the Auditor General.

Summary

This report provides the results of the follow-up of audit recommendations that have been implemented since our last follow-up review for reports issued by the City's Auditor General to the Board of Health from January 1, 1999 to June 30, 2007.

The result of our review shows that Toronto Public Health staff has implemented most of the recommendations made in previous audit reports issued by the Auditor General's Office. Audit recommendations fully implemented since our last follow-up review are listed in Attachment 1.

Audit recommendations not fully implemented, as well as management’s comments and action plan, are included in Attachment 2 and will be carried forward to our next follow-up review.

Background Information

Results of Follow-up of Previous Audit Recommendations - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-12651.pdf>)

HL14.12	ACTION	Amended		
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25-in-5: Network for Poverty Reduction

(May 16, 2008) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. endorsed the principles and elements of a poverty reduction strategy contained within the 25-in-5 Declaration;
2. requested that the Association of Public Health Agencies (alPHa) pass a resolution endorsing the principles and elements of a poverty reduction strategy contained within the 25-in-5 Declaration and communicate its endorsement to Premier McGuinty and Minister Matthews;
3. *recommended to the Minister of Children and Youth Services that targets and indicators recognize the link between poverty and health outcomes; and*
4. forwarded this report to the Ontario Public Health Association, all Ontario Boards of Health, the Association of Ontario Health Centres *and the four Local Health Committees.*

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications stemming directly from this report.

Summary

The 25-in-5: Network for Poverty Reduction is a province-wide network comprised of over 100 organizations and individuals working to eliminate poverty. The network has organized itself around the call for a Poverty Reduction Plan with a goal of reducing poverty in Ontario by 25 percent in five years and 50 percent in ten years.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 25-in-5: Network for Poverty Reduction and to seek Board of Health endorsement of its Founding Declaration.

Background Information

25-in-5: Network for Poverty Reduction - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13031.pdf>)

Attachment 1: 25-in-5 Founding Declaration

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-13032.pdf>)

HL14.13	ACTION	Adopted		
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Nutrition in Schools

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to provide information to the Board of Health on the nutritional quality and food safety of school cafeterias.

Summary

At the request of Councillor Fletcher, the Board of Health discussed nutritional related to food served in school cafeterias.

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2008-05-20	Afternoon	1:05 PM	4:00 PM	Public