

July 3, 2008

To: Budget Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: Progress Report on a City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program

**The Board of Health on July 3, 2008, amongst other things, forwarded the report (June 18, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health entitled “Progress Report on a City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program” to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process.**

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Board of Health:

1. forwarded this report and attachments to the Premier and Ontario Minister of Environment, and requested the Ministry to consider the direction Toronto is taking in its proposed Reporting and Disclosure Program and develop a toxics use reduction program that addresses the health of all Ontario 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. requested the Medical Officer of Health to:
  - i. report in October 2008 on the status of the provincial toxics use reduction program;
  - ii. 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;
  - iii. report to the Board of Health by October 2008 on any needed amendments to the Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Bylaw in Toronto to better compliment the province's proposed Toxics Use Reduction strategy; and
  - iv. ensure that the Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Bylaw and all supporting information is ready for discussion at City Council by October 2008.
3. referred the following motion by Trustee Wong to the Medical Officer of Health and the appropriate staff for consideration in the development of their educational elements:

“That the Medical Officer of Health be requested to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and the local school boards in providing educational materials targeted to elementary and secondary schools on the 25 priority toxic substances.”;
4. directed that 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;

- e. provides a knowledge exchange system that will enable individuals, groups and businesses to acquire health and environmental information on the reportable 25 priority substances during the phased in process; and
  - f. develops an evaluation plan to measure progress of the pollution prevention program; and
5. forwarded this report to the Budget Committee for consideration during the 2009 Operating Budget process.

Background:

The Board of Health on July 3, 2008, considered a report (June 18, 2008) from the Medical Officer of Health, entitled "Progress Report on a City of Toronto Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Program" recommending 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.

Speakers:

Sarah Miller, Researcher and Coordinator, Canadian Environmental Law Association (Submission Filed);  
Katrina Miller, Campaigns Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance (Submission Filed);  
Alec Farquhar, Managing Director, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers;  
Kim Jarvi, Senior Economist, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (Submission Filed);  
Kathleen Perchaluk, Canadian Cancer Society (Submission Filed);  
Hilda Swirsky;  
Dr. Gideon Forman, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment;  
Rita Bijons (Submission Filed); and  
Nancy Bradshaw, Community Outreach Coordinator, Environmental Health Clinic (Submission Filed).

Secretary,  
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/jd  
Item HL16.1

Attachment

- c. Medical Officer of Health  
Interested Persons