

## Board of Health

<b>Meeting No.</b>	22	<b>Contact</b>	Candy Davidovits, Committee Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday, April 20, 2009	<b>Phone</b>	416-392-8032
<b>Start Time</b>	1:00 PM	<b>E-mail</b>	boh@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Committee Room 2, City Hall	<b>Chair</b>	Councillor John Filion

HL22.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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### Food Safety and Foodborne Illness in Toronto

#### Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Government of Ontario implement the outstanding recommendations of the 2005 Report of the Meat Regulatory and Inspection Review (the Haines Report), including:
  - i. require all food premises to implement a provincially-developed food safety program based on a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point approach;
  - ii. amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act to require that all food premise operators and at least one other person present in the food premise at all times of operation be a certified food handler;
  - iii. develop and implement a province-wide public health investigation, compliance and enforcement policy for all food premises; and
  - iv. develop and implement uniform consumer food safety education programs.
  
2. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care explore the feasibility of making all health service data on gastrointestinal illness (the Integrated Public Health Information System; Telehealth Ontario; the Ontario Laboratory Information System; and the new Emergency Room Information System) available to local public health units and to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion to enable early identification of potential clusters of foodborne illness.
  
3. The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion enhance laboratory capacity for rapid identification of agents of foodborne illness in Ontario.

4. The Government of Ontario explore legislative and funding options to ensure food handlers are compensated for absences from work due to gastrointestinal illness.
5. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) ensure that Boards of Health receive sufficient provincial funding to comply fully with the Food Safety Protocol of the Ontario Public Health Standards.
6. The Government of Ontario and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency require full and timely disclosure of the food safety performance of all food premises they inspect, including premises inspected by local public health units.
7. The Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, with input from local public health units, review: the Foodborne Illness Outbreak Response Protocol to Guide a Multi-Jurisdictional Response (FIORP); the Ontario Foodborne Health Hazard and Illness Outbreak Investigations Memorandum of Agreement; and the Food Premises Plant Investigation: Multi-agency Roles document, to ensure that:
  - i. roles and responsibilities of responding agencies are clear and consistent in all protocols, including lead responsibility for public communications;
  - ii. regular training, including multi-agency simulation exercises, is provided for staff of all responding agencies; and
  - iii. a process is put in place for activating FIORP and striking an outbreak coordination committee of responding agencies whenever a significant multi-jurisdictional outbreak occurs.
8. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency review its food recall and public notification policies and procedures to ensure that:
  - i. a food product is recalled and the public notified when epidemiologic evidence provides reasonable and probable grounds to conclude that cases of foodborne illness are linked to consumption of a food product; and
  - ii. public communications and recall verification procedures are thorough and effective in reducing exposure to a potentially hazardous food product.
9. This report be shared with: the federal Ministers of Health and Agriculture and Agrifood; the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC); Sheila Weatherill; the Ontario Ministers of Health and Long Term Care, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Natural Resources; the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies; the Ontario Public Health Association; and all Boards of Health in Ontario.

## Summary

This report provides a summary of the key findings and issues raised in two attached reports, *Food Safety in Toronto* and *Foodborne Illness in Toronto*.

Food is essential for health and for Toronto’s social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being. However, recent and recurring outbreaks of foodborne illness, both close to home and elsewhere, remind us that food can also be a source of illness and disease. Toronto Public Health (TPH) plays a critical role in contributing to the maintenance of food safety systems and in the surveillance, detection and investigation of foodborne illness.

Illness from food contaminated with micro-organisms is very common and legally reportable to public health, but most cases are not severe and go unreported, so that routine data greatly underestimate the full burden of illness. The *Foodborne Illness in Toronto* report presents an epidemiological overview of disease trends in Toronto and establishes a new estimate of the full burden of foodborne illness: 437 thousand cases per year, or one in every six residents; the report estimates the economic impact in health care costs and lost productivity to be in the range of \$500 million annually.

To reduce the risk of foodborne illness, governments at all levels work together to regulate and monitor food safety at every stage in commercial food preparation from farm to table. The report *Food Safety in Toronto* describes the roles and functions of the responsible agencies and describes how these organizations work together when outbreaks of foodborne illness occur. The report also identifies weaknesses in current food safety systems and inter-agency cooperation and calls for improvements to be made by federal and provincial agencies.

### Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts of this report.

### Background Information

Food Safety and Foodborne Illness in Toronto - Staff Report  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20464.pdf>

Appendix A - Foodborne Illness in Toronto  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20469.pdf>

Appendix B - Food Safety in Toronto  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20470.pdf>

HL22.11	Information			Ward: All
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## Establishment of a Toronto Water Lead Content Mitigation Rebate Program

### Origin

(April 8, 2009) Letter from Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

### Summary

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on April 8, 2009, considered the report (March 25, 2009) from the General Manager, Toronto Water, and the Medical Officer of Health entitled “Establishment of a Toronto Water Lead Content Mitigation Rebate Program”, and submitted a copy to the Board of Health for its information.

## Background Information

Establishment of a Toronto Water Lead Content Mitigation Rebate Program - Letter  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20441.pdf>

Establishment of a Toronto Water Lead Content Mitigation Rebate Program-Staff Report  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20445.pdf>

Transmitted from City Council - Referral of Member Motion MM30.5  
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20446.pdf>

HL22.12	ACTION			Ward: All
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## Purchase Order Amendment to Sole Source Contract 47012030 with Loblaw Companies Limited for Food Certificates

### Origin

(April 15, 2009) Report from Medical Officer of Health and the Acting Director, Purchasing and Materials Management

### Recommendations

The Medical Officer of Health and the Acting Director of Purchasing and Materials Management Division recommend that:

1. Council grant authority to the Medical Officer of Health to extend and increase current sole source contract 47012030 with Loblaw Companies Limited, for the purchase of food certificates, under the same terms and conditions, for the period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011 by a total estimated amount of \$850,000.00, revising the current contract value from \$948,000.00 to \$1,798,000.00, taxes not applicable.
2. This report be forwarded to the May 12, 2009 Government Management Committee meeting for consideration.
3. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to award, amend and execute, on an ongoing basis, the purchase of goods agreement for the purchase of food certificates from Loblaw Companies Limited, Sobeys (Ontario Division) and Metro Ontario Inc. within the approved budget and in accordance with established terms and conditions.

### Summary

This report requests authority to amend and extend the current sole source contract 47012030 to Loblaw Companies Limited for the purchase of food certificates for the period of June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011 by an estimated amount of \$850,000.00.

This report also requests City Council to delegate authority to the Medical Officer of Health to award, execute and amend on an ongoing basis the purchase of goods agreement for the purchase of food certificates from the three major grocery chains: Loblaw Companies Limited, Sobeys (Ontario Division) and Metro Ontario Inc. within the Toronto Public Health approved budget.

Food certificates are used to support the access of pregnant women, young families, children, and Tuberculosis (TB) clients to nutritional food and to promote healthy eating and provide food skills training which are critical components of a number of Toronto Public Health (TPH) programs. Food certificates are given to TPH clients in accordance with specific eligibility criteria and program policies and procedures. Acquiring food certificates from Loblaw along with certificates from other major grocery chains ensures that clients have a choice of grocery stores where certificates can be used.

### Financial Impact

The amendment to the current blanket contract 47012030 for the extended period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011 results in an increase of \$850,000.00. No taxes are applicable. Funding of approximately \$250,000 in 2009 is available in the TPH's 2009 Recommended Operating Budget under cost element 2741. The balance of the funds, in the estimated amount of \$600,000 for the remainder of the contract from January 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011 will be requested in the TPH 2010 and 2011 Operating Budget submissions.

<b>Account</b>	<b>2009 From approx. June 1 to Dec 31, 2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011 From approx. Jan 1 to May 31, 2011</b>	<b>Total</b>
Various	\$250,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$850,000.00

Programs that purchase and distribute food certificates are funded in a number of ways. The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. All other programs are funded 75% by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Consequently, the Provincial share of the total cost of \$850,000 is approximately \$680,000 or 80%.

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

### Background Information

Purchase Order Amendment to Sole Source Contract 47012030 with Loblaw Companies Limited - Staff Report

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-20459.pdf>)