



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

2009 Public Health Champion Awards

Date:	March 31, 2009
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The Public Health Champion Awards were established as a legacy initiative commemorating the 125th anniversary of Toronto Public Health. They provide public recognition to individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to public health in Toronto. This report summarizes key findings from the evaluation of the 2008 Public Health Champion Awards and outlines the recommended changes to the nomination and selection process for the 2009 awards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee continue to be comprised of three members of the Board of Health and one member from each of the four Local Health Committees.
2. The Co-Chairs and Board of Health members of the 2008 Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee be reappointed for 2009. Board of Health members are Councillor Gord Perks, Vaijyanthi Chari, and Wangari Muriuki. The committee co-chairs are Vaijyanthi Chari and Wangari Muriuki.
3. Local Health Committees be requested to appoint one member each to the 2009 Selection Committee.
4. The Selection Committee convene in September 2009 and report its selections to the October Board of Health meeting.

5. The Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee implement the revisions outlined in this report to the nomination and promotion processes and timelines for 2009.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Public Health Champion Award was created as a legacy initiative of the 125th anniversary celebrations and is to be presented annually. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or organization to public health in Toronto. At the May 2008 Board of Health meeting, the nomination and selection process was confirmed. Included in this decision was a recommendation to review the process upon completion of the inaugural year and revise as necessary.

The 2008 Public Health Champion Award recipients were announced at the October Board of Health meeting; Wendy Babcock was the recipient in the Individual category and the volunteer Physicians and Dentists at the Scarborough Urban Health Outreach Centre in the Organization category. Recipients were honoured at an awards ceremony held at the opening of the archival exhibit “An Infectious Idea: 125 Years of Public Health in Toronto” as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations.

COMMENTS

2008 Awards Evaluation Summary

An evaluation of the 2008 Public Health Champion Awards was conducted by staff. As part of the evaluation, debriefing sessions were held with each member of the 2008 awards Selection Committee. Feedback was also gathered from staff who worked on the awards. Questions focused on different aspects of the award process, including nomination, outreach, selection and ceremony.

Overall, the feedback was very positive and the inaugural year was seen as a success. Although a range of outreach strategies were used in 2008, increasing community awareness of the award is a goal for 2009. The nomination period for 2009 should start earlier to provide more time to submit nominations. The two nomination categories (“individual” and “organization”) were seen to be appropriate. The four nominating criteria (leadership, collaboration, community capacity, and achieving impact) worked well and were useful in guiding the adjudication process. Both the nomination categories and criteria should continue in the same format for 2009. The inclusion in the Selection Committee of representatives from both the Board of Health and Local Health Committees was seen as an important strength of the selection process. Feedback on the ceremony was very positive and overlapping the awards ceremony with the archives exhibit helped to raise the profile of the awards. Planning the ceremony to coincide with other scheduled public health events in 2009 is recommended.

2009 Awards Process

Based on the evaluation findings, revisions to the promotional processes and timelines are recommended for the 2009 awards. The following schedule is proposed for the 2009 calendar of activities:

Call for Nominations opens:	Monday, May 4
Call for Nominations closes:	Friday, June 26
Selection Committee Convenes:	Mid-September
Notification of Award Recipients:	October
Award Ceremony:	Late October/November

The call for nominations will be posted on the City of Toronto Awards Portal (www.toronto.ca/awards/index.htm). Nomination forms and instructions will be available on the Public Health Champion Awards page on the Toronto Public Health website. Staff will work with the Selection Committee co-chairs to ensure that the call for nominations is widely promoted.

In order to build on the experience gained with the awards in 2008; it would be appropriate if the co-chairs and members of the 2009 Selection Committee were reappointed for 2009.

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SIGNATURE

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