



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Ministry of Health Promotion Funding Reduction to Smoke-Free Ontario Enforcement

Date:	September 29, 2009
To:	Board of Health
From:	Medical Officer of Health
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to further advise the Board of Health about Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) funding reductions to the 100% funded Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) enforcement program.

As reported under item HL24.2 of the June 16 Board of Health meeting, MHP notified Toronto Public Health (TPH) of reductions to the Youth Action Alliance program, the High School Grants program and enforcement of the SFOA across Ontario. At the time of that report, MHP had not specified the amount of the reduction to the TPH enforcement program.

On August 25, 2009, MHP notified TPH that the enforcement funding allocation for the City of Toronto would be reduced by \$99,561 based on the Ministry's fiscal year (April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010). This report will outline the impact of this reduction on the TPH tobacco enforcement program.

Financial Impact

The Smoke Free Ontario Tobacco Enforcement program is funded 100% by the Ministry of Health Promotion. The financial impact on the TPH tobacco enforcement operating budget is a reduction of \$56,892 in 2009, and an additional reduction of \$42,669 in 2010, resulting in a 2010 base budget of \$1,420,672. Furthermore, the approved Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases of 1.75 percent for 2009 and 2.0 percent for 2010 will not be funded by the Ministry, creating additional pressure on the operating budget. The funding pressure resulting from the unfunded COLA increases for 2009 and 2010 will be accommodated within the Smoke-Free Ontario Tobacco Enforcement Program through

additional gapping in 2009 and the elimination of two tobacco enforcement positions in 2010.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The tobacco enforcement team is part of the TPH multi-disciplinary team of staff working on tobacco control under the prevention, protection and cessation pillars identified in the Ministry of Health Tobacco Free Ontario Strategy.

The TPH Tobacco Enforcement program is currently comprised of 20 Tobacco Enforcement Inspectors that work in two teams. The Public Place and Workplace team responds to complaints, conduct inspections and monitors compliance with the no-smoking requirements of the SFOA and Toronto's No Smoking Bylaw (Municipal Code Chapter 709-Smoking) in Toronto's workplaces and public places. Members of this team are scheduled to work rotating shifts to ensure that there are staff working evenings and weekends in Toronto's entertainment facilities.

The Sales, Schools and Institutions (SSI) team conducts compliance inspections and respond to complaints regarding tobacco retailers, schools and institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes. Part of their role is to conduct surveillance and test shopping activities to determine tobacco retailer willingness to sell tobacco products to persons less than 19 years of age.

COMMENTS

The tobacco enforcement program has received 100% provincial funding since 2005. The elimination of the two tobacco enforcement positions will return the number of positions on the team to 18 as it was prior to 2005 when the program was funded on a cost shared basis.

The most recent Ontario Tobacco Research Unit Formative Evaluation of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act was in November 2007. It indicated that: the overall Provincial rate of compliance with the prohibition on selling tobacco to underage youth was 90%, Toronto's compliance rate came in at 92%; the Provincial rate of compliance with the prohibition on indoor smoking in restaurants and bars was 99.9%, Toronto's compliance rate came in at 98%. The implementation of the Tobacco Display Ban on May 31, 2008 led to a compliance rate throughout the Province of 98% and Toronto's compliance rate was 98.59%.

The reduction in enforcement funding will decrease the number of routine inspections that can be conducted in 2010 to monitor compliance with the SFOA. However, adjustments will be made to the team and district assignments to redistribute work and complaint workload demands.

CONTACT

Rob Colvin
Manager, Healthy Environments
Tel: 416-338-8035
Fax: 416-397-4782
Email: rcolvin@toronto.ca

Ron de Burger
Director, Healthy Environments
Tel: 416-338-7953
Fax: 416-392-0713
Email: rdeburg@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health