

APPROVED MINUTES

TORONTO/EAST YORK LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 **Time:** 6:00 p.m.
Location: 277 Victoria Street – 5th Floor – Room 504

PRESENT: Fiona Nelson (Chair)
Brian Parris
Marvin Greenberg
Roman Polochansky
Lino Grima
Marlon Merraro
Katherine Hoffmann
Liz Janzen
Jeanne Jabanoski
Penelope Marrett
Aldo Gatti
Bryan Heal
Amy Khachatryan (Minutes)

REGRETS: Bernard Blais (Resigned)
Evadne Wilkinson

1.0 Minutes of February 3, 2009

The minutes of February 3, 2009 were adopted as read.

2.0 Business Arising

3.0 Board of Health Report Update (Fiona)

- **The Food Safety**

Liz Janzen informed the members that there are going to be two technical reports: Food Safety report regarding contamination of food and safety system improvements and the second report with Incidents rates in food illnesses and some regulations proposals.

- **The Diabetes and its prevention strategy**

The report shows that there is an increase of Type II Diabetes amongst young people. Some of the reasons are the increasing number of overweight people who consume too much fast food and sugar containing food. Two communities will be chosen to start pilot project of prevention of Type II Diabetes. There should be set patterns of right eating habits from early childhood.

- **Public Health Champion Reward**

The decision was made to ask Evadne Wilkinson to represent Local Health Committee. Once the site is ready (approximately May 4) the Nomination Form and Instructions will be forwarded by secretary to all members of Local Health Committee.

4.0. Poverty Reduction Report (Toronto Star Article) Fiona

Fiona Nelson reported that there will be Standing Committee on Social Policy looking into the Bill 152, Poverty Reduction Act, 2009.

Fiona Nelson reported that there was an interesting article regarding diminishing of memory and learning abilities while under stress amongst children and adults. Recognizing that the reduction of poverty supports the social, economic and cultural development of Ontario, the Government's strategy is to achieve 25 per cent reduction in the number of Ontario children living in poverty within five years. The Government's poverty reduction strategy is guided by the vision of a province where every person has the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential, and contribute to and participate in a prosperous and healthy Ontario and builds on the foundations of Ontario's education system and the Ontario Child Benefit Program.

The Government of Ontario is committed to regular consultation with respect to the strategy; to measuring the success of the strategy by setting a target at least every five years and assessing indicators of poverty reduction; to reporting annually on the success of the strategy.

Fiona reported that she registered herself to take part in the Standing Committee and represented the main points of her future speech. Mainly that would be focusing on different programs i.e. healthy children, healthy families, more visits to young families in order to reduce constant stress in our future generations. We believe that it is very important to continue the youth challenge, healthy babies/ healthy families programs. We need to go beyond dollars in order to help people in poverty. The anti-poverty strategy should involve and also emphasize measures and programs for family support. Fiona asked the members to send their recommendations within one week, so she can include them in her presentation.

5.0 Other Business

With reference to lead in drinking water in certain parts of the City there is an issue concerning testing. In addition to testing water they should also test the blood of people at risk. We should go beyond the testing water. If there are children in the houses with high level of lead then they should be tested.

6.0 Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, June 9, 2009
277 Victoria Street
5th Floor – Room 504
6:00 p.m.**