

2010 Public Health Champion Awards

Date:	April 15, 2010
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 public health in Toronto in 2008. The awards provide 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 2009 Public Health Champion Awards and recommends the nomination and selection process for the 2010 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. Local Health Committees be requested to appoint one member each to the 2010 Selection Committee.
3. The Selection Committee convene in September 2010 and report its selections to the November Board of Health meeting.
4. The Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee implement the revisions outlined in this report to the nomination and promotional processes and timelines for 2010.

5. Upon completion of the 2010 awards cycle, the Medical Officer of Health report to the Board of Health on a comprehensive evaluation of all three years of the Public Health Champion Awards with recommendations for the future of the awards.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Public Health Champion Awards was created as a legacy initiative for the 125th anniversary celebrations in 2008 and is to be presented annually. The purpose of the awards is to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals and organizations to public health in Toronto. At the May 2009 Board of Health meeting, the nomination and selection process was confirmed.

The 2009 Public Health Champion Awards recipients were announced at the October Board of Health meeting. Lillie Johnson was the recipient in the individual category and Community Matters Toronto in the organization category. Recipients were honoured at an awards ceremony held on November 3 at the annual conference of the Ontario Public Health Association in conjunction with the Charles Hastings Lecture in Public Health.

COMMENTS

2009 Awards Evaluation Summary

An evaluation of the 2009 Public Health Champion Awards was conducted that included debriefing sessions with each member of the awards Selection Committee and feedback gathered from staff who supported the work of this committee. Questions for review focused on the various aspects of the award process, including nomination, outreach, selection and ceremony.

Overall, the feedback was very positive and there are no substantial changes being recommended to the structure of the awards program. Although the outreach and promotional strategy for the awards was strengthened during this second year of the program, an important goal for 2010 will be to continue building a community profile for the awards. Some minor changes to the nomination form and supporting documentation are included in the attachment to this report, reflecting input received. The inclusion in the Selection Committee of representatives from both the Board of Health and Local Health Committees continues to be an important strength of the selection process. Feedback on the awards ceremony was very positive and combining this event with the Hastings Lecture helped to raise the profile of the awards. Planning the ceremony to coincide with other scheduled public health events in 2010 is recommended.

After completion of this third year, a comprehensive evaluation should be conducted on the awards program. The evaluation should include a process for gathering feedback from awards nominators and identifying strategies for building awareness and participation in the awards.

2010 Awards Process

Based on the feedback gathered in the evaluation, a small number of practical revisions to the promotional processes and timelines are recommended for the 2010 awards. The following schedule will be used for the 2010 calendar of activities:

Call for Nominations opens:	Wednesday, May 12
Call for Nominations closes:	Wednesday, June 30
Selection Committee Convenes:	Mid-September
Notification of Award Recipients:	October
Award Ceremony:	November/December

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 goes out in mid-May.

To build on the experience gained with the awards program to date, it would be beneficial if the co-chairs and members of the 2009 Selection Committee are available to be reappointed for 2010.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

2010 Public Health Champion Awards Call for Nominations