

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting No. 5

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

The Board of Health met on Tuesday, April 10, 2001 in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:12 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair	x
Councillor Sandra Bussin	x
Councillor John Filion	x
Councillor Irene Jones	
Councillor Jane Pitfield	x
Councillor Michael Prue, Vice Chair	x
Ms. Helen Chan	x
Mr. Brian Hyndman	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari	x
Ms. Nancy Peters	x
Trustee Mark Stefanini	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x

Also Present:

Ms. Fiona Nelson

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on April 10, 2001, were confirmed, subject to amending minute 4.2, motion (3)(b) by Councillor Pitfield to read:

“The Board of Health recommended to Policy and Finance Committee that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to investigate and report back to the Board of Health and the Budget Advisory Committee on a competitive process whereby the IT

system for the Dental Treatment program could be out-sourced;”

**5.1 Toronto’s Health Status:
A Profile of Public Health in 2001.**

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 4, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, presenting the most recent health status information on the residents of the City of Toronto; advising that “Toronto’s Health Status: A Profile of Public Health in 2001” is the first health overview for the amalgamated City of Toronto; further advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation.

The Board of Health:

- (1) forwarded the foregoing report to Council for information; **(moved by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (2) requested the Chair of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health to write to Mr. Roy Romanov:
 - (a) requesting Mr. Romanov to devote a significant part of his investigations to the importance of Public Health in the health of the population (especially aging in better health) and suggesting that he hold public hearings on the value and impact of increasing the proportion of spending on public health efforts as both a humane and long-term approach to the reduction of sickness spending and increasing the overall health of the entire population; and
 - (b) forwarding, for his information, a copy of the report “Toronto’s Health Status”; **(moved by Ms. Peters, on behalf of Ms. Nelson)**
- (3) requested the Healthy City Office to submit a report to the Board of Health on the health

of the Toronto community, including information on social determinants of health such as housing, transportation, and others, and, further, that this report be complementary to the report on Toronto's Health Status; **(moved by Mr. Zaslofsky)** and

- (4) requested the Medical Officer of Health to forward a copy of "Toronto's Health Status: A Profile of Public Health in 2001" to the Mayor and Members of Council; the Chief Administrative Officer, Department Heads; the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; the Toronto District Health Council; the Community and Social Planning Council of Toronto; Community Health Centres; Community Care Access Centres and hospitals in Toronto; Health Units and Health Intelligence Units in Ontario; the Toronto Public Library; and the Vital Signs Project. **(moved by Councillor Mihevc)**

(Medical Officer of Health; Chair, Board of Health; Healthy City Office; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 25, 2001)

(Report No. 3, Clause No. 1)

5.2 Air Quality and Lakeview Generating Station: Response to Provincial Proposal.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 8, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, proposing a Board of Health response to endorsement of comments and recommendations offered on the provincial proposal respecting the conversion of the Lakeview Generating Station; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) convey to the Ontario Minister of the Environment strong support for the proposal to cease burning coal at the Lakeview Generating Station and that the proposed regulation must:
 - (a) establish an air emission rate for NO_x that would require the use of high efficiency combined cycle natural gas turbines (CCGT) after April 2005;

- (b) establish a cap on the annual volume of NOx emitted after April 2005 that ensures that the total volume of emissions from the plant is truly and significantly reduced relative to 1999;
- (2) send a copy of this report to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ontario Minister of Energy and the Ontario Minister of the Environment; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to continue to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health adopted the aforementioned report.

(Ontario Minister of Health and Long Term Care; Ontario Minister of Energy, Science and Technology; c. Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 23, 2001)

5.3 Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition Action Plan for Toronto.

Mr. Brian Hyndman declared an interest in this matter in that he is a member of the Steering Committee of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 7, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, presenting the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition's Action Plan for Cancer Prevention in the City of Toronto and accompanying Frameworks for Implementation; advising that there are no direct financial implications for the City of Toronto in the current budget year stemming from this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition's Action Plan for Cancer Prevention for the City of Toronto and Frameworks for Implementation as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to convene a roundtable comprising City departments and divisions, together with provincial and federal partners, to determine the means, timetable, roles, responsibilities, capacities and resources for phasing in the proposed Implementation Frameworks, and report the results of this roundtable to City Council through the Board of Health by the end of 2001;
- (3) the Medical Officer of Health take a leadership role in facilitating the progress of the Action Plan and Frameworks for Implementation and report back to the Board of Health in 2002 on progress to date, including specific demonstration projects and programs that have been put in place;

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- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board of Health also had before it the following Working Group Reports:

- (a) “Preventing Occupational and Environmental Cancer – A Strategy for Toronto”
Background Paper Prepared by the Occupational and Environmental Carcinogens Working Group;
- (b) “Dietary Risk Factors”
Background Paper Prepared by the Dietary Risk Factors Working Group;
- (c) “Proposal for a Research and Demonstration Project to Develop an Initiative that will Maximize Children’s Physical Activity in the Ethno-Racially and Socio-Economically Diverse Population of Toronto”
Background paper prepared by the Physical Activity Working Group.
- (d) “A Survey and Recommendations of Current Sun-Safe Policies and Programs”
Final Report Prepared by the Ultraviolet Radiation Working Group.
- (e) “Associations between Alcohol and Cancer and Implications for Prevention”
Background Paper Prepared by the Alcohol Working Group.
- (f) “Tobacco Use: Attitudes and Beliefs of South Asian Teens in Toronto”
Background paper prepared by the Tobacco Working Group.

The Board of Health also had before it the following communications expressing support for the recommendations contained in the “Action Plan for Cancer Prevention in the City of Toronto”:

- (i) (April 27, 2001) from Mr. Basil Hargrove, President, CAW – Canada;
- (ii) (undated) signed by 12 representatives of Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc.;
- (iii) (May 1, 2001) from Mr. Clarence MacPherson, Executive Director, Workers Health & Safety Centre;
- (iv) (May 3, 2001) from Mr. Peter Elson, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association;
- (v) (May 3, 2001) from Mr. Terry Sullivan, Vice President Designate; Division of Preventive Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario, Action Cancer Ontario;

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- (vi) (May 7, 2001) from Dr. L.M. Marshall, Medical Director, Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Science Centre;
- (vii) (April 30, 2001) from Mr. John McKinnon, Injured Workers' Consultants;
- (viii) (May 7, 2001) from Ms. Heather Murray and Mr. David Galbraith, Seaton Village (Bloor/Bathurst) neighbourhood;
- (ix) (May 8, 2001) from Co-Chairs, Steering Committee, Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control;
- (x) (May 8, 2001) from Ms. Lois Corbett, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance;
- (xi) (May 8, 2001) from Dr. Robert Kyle, Coordinator, Central East Cancer Prevention & Screening Network, Cancer Care Ontario;
- (xii) (May 9, 2001) from Ms. Judith Myrvold, Chair, Council for a Tobacco-Free Toronto;
- (xiii) (May 9, 2001) from Mr. Daniel Ublansky, Lawyer/Director, Health & Safety Legal Clinic;
- (xiv) (May 14, 2001) from Mr. Michael Seaward, President, Steelworkers Toronto Area Council;
- (xv) (May 16, 2001) from Dr. Irving Rootman, Director and Professor, Department of Public Health Science Centre for Health Promotion, University of Toronto;
- (xvi) (May 17, 2001) from Mr. Harry Hynde, Director, United Steelworkers of America;
- (xvii) (May 17, 2001) from Mr. John M. Garcia, Chair, Ontario Collaborative Group on Diet and Cancer, Cancer Care Ontario;
- (xviii) (May 18, 2001) from Andrea Stevens Lavigne, Operations Director, Communications, Education and Community Health Centre for Addiction and Mental Health;
- (xix) (May 19, 2001) from Ms. Debbie Field, Executive Director, Food Share Toronto;
- (xx) (May 18, 2001) from Dr. Cheryl Rosen, Ontario Sun Safety Working Group;
- (xxi) (May 18, 2001) from Dr. Cheryl Rosen, Head, Division of Dermatology, University Health Network, Toronto Western Hospital;

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- (xxii) (May 15, 2001) from Ms. Claudine Salama, Occupational Health and Safety, Local Advisory Committee Chair, Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers Inc., Public Service Alliance of Canada; and
- (xxiii) (May 22, 2001) from Dr. Nowell Solish, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Science Centre.

The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Jack Shapiro, Citizen Member and Member of the Steering Committee, Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition;
- Dr. Lynn From, Head, Division of Dermatology, Toronto-Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre (Co-Convenor of Ultraviolet Radiation Working Group);
- Dr. Cheryl Rosen, Head, Division of Dermatology, Toronto Western Hospital;
- Dr. Maru Barrera, Pediatric Clinical/Health Psychologist in Haematology/Oncology Program, Hospital for Sick Children (Co-Convenor of the Physical Activity Working Group);
- Dr. Norman Giesbrecht, Senior Scientist, Centre of Addiction and Mental Health (Co-Convenor of Alcohol Working Group);
- Ms. Ruth Grier, past Minister of Health, member of StopCancer Ontario and member of the Occupational and Environmental Working Group;
- Dr. Terry Sullivan, Vice President Designate, Division of Preventive Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario;
- Mr. Andrew King, Executive Director, Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers Inc. (Toronto);
- Ms Rahima Sadat, Manager, Mac's Convenience Store;
- Mr. Paul Atkinson, representing Toronto Fire Fighters' Association; and
- Ms Virginia Rae.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a brief presentation.

The Board of Health:

- (1) amended Recommendation No. (2) of the foregoing report by adding the words "and members of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition" after the word "partners", so that such recommendation shall now read as follows:
 - "(2) City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to convene a roundtable comprising City departments and

divisions, together with provincial and federal partners and members of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition, to determine the means, timetable, roles, responsibilities, capacities and resources for phasing in the proposed Implementation Frameworks, and report the results of this roundtable to City Council through the Board of Health by the end of 2001”; **(moved by Mr. MacKay)**

- (2) referred those portions of the “Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition’s Action Plan for the City of Toronto” relating to alcohol (Recommendations Nos (9), (10), and (11), referred to in Appendix 1 and 2 of the foregoing report from the Medical Officer of Health) to the Board of Health Substance Abuse Subcommittee for information; **(moved by Councillor Prue)**
- (3) recommended that all school boards, private and religious schools, be included in outreach strategies addressed in the foregoing report from the Medical Officer of Health; **(moved by Councillor Bussin)** and
- (4) unanimously adopted the foregoing report from the Medical Officer of Health, as amended, and forwarded same to Council in accordance with Recommendation No. (2) of the report. **(moved by Councillor Prue)**

(Medical Officer of Health; Substance Abuse Subcommittee; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services; Interested Persons – May 25, 2001)

(Report No. 3, Clause No. 2)

5.4 Community Participation in the Toronto Board of Health.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (May 16, 2001) from Councillor Irene Jones and Mr. Lee Zaslofsky, responding to concerns identified regarding the integrated model for community participation in the Board of Health and to propose revisions to this model to address these concerns; advising that the resource requirements needed to support implementation of these recommendations will be modest and can be absorbed within the base budget of Toronto Public Health; the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement; and recommending that the Board of Health:

- (1) approve the proposed revisions to the integrated model for community participation in the Toronto Board of Health including the establishment of four Local Health Committees as sub-committees of the Board of Health;
- (2) approve the draft terms of reference and implementation plan for the Local Health Committees;
- (3) refer this report to the Chief Administrative Officer for information and appropriate action; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health:

- (1) adopted the foregoing report as amended by amending Recommendation No. (1) by deleting the word "four" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "six"; so that such Recommendation now reads as follows:
 - "(1) approve the proposed revisions to the integrated model for community participation in the Toronto Board of Health including the establishment of six Local Health Committees as sub-committees of the Board of Health;" and
 - (2) appointed the following members to the nominating subcommittee to select members for the six Local Health Committees:

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari;
Mr. Lee Zazlofsky;
Trustee Mark Stefanini;
Ms. Helen Chan; and
Councillor Michael Prue (Councillor Irene
Jones as his alternate).

The follow motions by Trustee Stefanini **failed**:

- (a) that the community members be chosen in general rather than specific fields; and
- (b) that the community members not necessarily reflect the diversity of community due to the difficulty of not necessarily having all the pertinent information available.

(Medical Officer of Health; Chief Administrative Officer; c. Dr. Rosana Pellizzari; Mr. Lee Zazlofsky; Trustee Mark Stefanini; Ms. Helen Chan; Councillor Michael Prue; Councillor Irene Jones; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 25, 2001)

5.5 Environmental Tobacco Smoke By-law.

The Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation with respect to the Environmental Tobacco Smoke By-law.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Board of Health received the aforementioned presentation.

5.6 Hot Weather Response Plan for the Summer of 2001.

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 22, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing an outline of the protocol for the Hot Weather Response plan for the summer of 2001; advising that \$40,000 is allocated for the Hot Weather Response Plan within the 2001 Public Health Operating Budget to cover the expenses for routine monitoring and Heat Alerts; if a Heat Emergency is called the operating costs to open cooling centres will be funded from the Housing, Shelter and Support Operating budget; and recommending that:

- (1) the Medical Officer of Health call a Heat Alert when an oppressive air mass is forecast and the likelihood of excess mortality related to the weather exceeds 65 percent, and that this Heat Alert activate the Hot Weather Response protocol as outlined in this report;

- (2) the Mayor call a Heat Emergency when an oppressive air mass is forecast and the likelihood of excess mortality related to the weather exceeds 90 percent, and that the Medical Officer of Health activate the City's emergency operations centre, as necessary, under the provisions of the City's Emergency Plan;
- (3) Toronto Public Health continue to participate in research into the relationship between extreme hot weather and health impacts for citizens who live and work in Toronto, including the testing and refinement of the Toronto-specific heat response threshold;
- (4) this report be forwarded to City Council for approval; and
- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary steps to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Filion, the Board of Health recommended to Council adoption of the aforementioned report (May 22, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 3)

5.7 Homeless Health Reference Group.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (May 22, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, addressed to the Board of Health and the Community Services Committee, outlining the progress to date of the Homeless Health Reference Group including three initiatives in response to the health-related recommendations of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force; these include a discharge protocol for homeless persons, model of infirmary care and harm reduction facility; and recommending that:

- (1) the City of Toronto request that the teaching hospitals located in the City of Toronto, in collaboration with the Shelter Housing and Support Division, develop a common discharge protocol based on the best practices identified in this report;
- (2) the City of Toronto urge the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to complete negotiations with the Sherbourne Corporation to establish and fund a pilot project infirmary for people who are homeless in the City of Toronto in the 2001-2002 fiscal year, based on the principles identified in this report;
- (3) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services conduct an inventory of existing homeless services and funding in order to determine the extent

- to which they meet the harm reduction principles identified in this report, and to develop strategies to address any short falls identified through the inventory;
- (4) the City of Toronto incorporate the harm reduction principles identified in this report in the provision of homeless services and grants and urge other service providers and funders of homeless services to do the same in order to ensure consistency and access to services;
 - (5) the City of Toronto urge the provincial government to:
 - (a) establish a provincial homeless health framework to specifically address the health care access issues experienced by people who are homeless and which identifies appropriate delivery models and funding sources;
 - (b) continue to invest in supportive and transitional housing; and
 - (c) develop an inter-ministerial process and strategies to address urgent gaps in housing, social and health services available to people who are homeless;
 - (6) the City of Toronto continue to urge the federal government to invest in affordable housing to ensure that the health needs of people who are homeless are addressed; and
 - (7) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Board of Health recommended to the Community Services Committee, adoption of the joint report (May 22, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting Homeless Health Reference Group.

(Community Services Committee; c. Medical Officer of Health;
Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 23, 2001)

5.8 Chemicals in Drinking Water.

The Board of Health had before it a report (March 28, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information on the potential health impacts of chemicals found in Toronto's drinking water; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health forward this report to City Council through the Works Committee for information;
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health provide a copy of this report to the York Region Medical Officer of Health for her information; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Board of Health:

- (1) adopted the foregoing report and forwarded same to the Works Committee and Council in accordance with Recommendation No. (1); and
- (2) adopted the following Resolution by Mr. Brian Hyndman:

“WHEREAS access to a safe, clean, affordable water supply is a critical determinant of health; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Government is considering the possibility of privatizing the treatment and distribution of Ontario’s drinking water which may result in wastage of water; and

WHEREAS the privatization of water treatment and distribution in other jurisdictions have led to negative health impacts, increase in preventable diseases and reduced access to water by low-income consumers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health monitor any move towards privatization of Toronto’s water supply and, in the event that a concrete proposal for privatization is brought forward, the Medical Officer of Health be requested to submit a report to the Board of Health with respect to the potential health impacts of such privatization.”

(Works Committee; York Region Medical Officer of Health;
Medical Officer of Health; c. Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal
Services – May 23, 2001)

**5.9 By-law to Prevent the Feeding of Wildlife in Parks.
(All Wards)**

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 2, 2001) from the City Solicitor, reporting, as requested, on the prevention of feeding of potentially dangerous wild animals; advising that there are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report; and recommending that:

- (1) the draft by-law attached to this report be approved and that authority be granted to introduce the necessary bill in Council to give effect to it; and
- (2) the Province be requested to either amend the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, to make it an offence to feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife or, to amend the *Municipal Act* to enable municipalities to enact by-laws to prohibit feeding or attempting to feed dangerous wildlife on public and private property.

The Board of Health also had before it a report (May 16, 2001) from the Medical Officer of Health, providing information on the feasibility measures that can be taken to prohibit the feeding of wild animals in Toronto; advising that there are no financial implications to this report; if the Uniform Parks By-law is amended to prohibit the feeding of dangerous wildlife, enforcement of the by-law will be done within existing resources in Toronto Animal Services and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism; and recommending that:

- (1) Toronto Animal Services continue its public education initiative to discourage the feeding of dangerous wild animals in Toronto;
- (2) the Board of Health request the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism to install signs in public parks prohibiting the feeding of dangerous animals in parks;
- (3) this report be sent for information to the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Separate School Board; and
- (4) that the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary steps to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health:

- (1) recommended to Council adoption of the report from the City Solicitor, subject to

- amending the draft by-law attached to the report to provide that the definition of “dangerous wildlife” does not include “fox”; and
- (2) adopted the report from the Medical Officer of Health.

(Report 3, Clause 4)

5.10 Toronto Animal Services.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Prue Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

The Board of Health adopted the following Resolution by Councillor Mihevc:

“WHEREAS Toronto Animal Services (TAS) assumed responsibility for animal sheltering in the South Region of Toronto on April 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS animals from the South Region are being sheltered temporarily in existing TAS shelters, a situation that cannot be sustained in the long term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health request the Commissioner of Corporate Services to identify a suitable City-owned or leased facility by July 15, 2001, to provide sufficient lead time for planning and construction so that TAS can occupy and use such site by April 1, 2002.”

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

(Commissioner of Corporate Services; c. Medical Officer of Health; Director, Facilities and Real Estate; Ms. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 25, 2001)

The Board of Health adjourned its meeting at 4:30 p.m.