

Ontario Public Health Sector Strategic Plan

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| Date: | April 29, 2013 |
| To: | Board of Health |
| From: | Medical Officer of Health |
| Wards: | All Wards |
| Reference Number: | |

SUMMARY

On April 4, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released *Make No Little Plans: Ontario's Public Health Sector Strategic Plan*, a comprehensive strategic plan for Ontario's public health sector. The plan is a result of collaborative efforts of the Public Health Leadership Council, headed by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, of which the Medical Officer of Health of Toronto is a member. The plan was developed with consultation among key stakeholders both within and outside the health sector, including public health units throughout Ontario and representation from Boards of Health (including Toronto Board of Health). The plan centres around five strategic goals, with eight collective areas of focus for the public health sector to tackle over the next three to five years. Implementation plans will be developed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in consultation with public health sector stakeholders.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts related to this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Ontario Public Health Strategic Plan was developed by the Public Health Leadership Council. The council was formed in June 2011 to foster public health system-wide leadership and coordination in order to optimize the functioning of Ontario's public health system through collaborative leadership that will result in Ontario being the healthiest jurisdiction in the world. The council is chaired by the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and the Medical Officer of Health for Toronto is a member.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care released *Make No Little Plans: Ontario's Public Health Sector Strategic Plan* on April 4, 2013. The report is the result of the Public Health Leadership Council's collaborative efforts to lay out a 15 to 20 year vision, mission and values and strategic goals and collective areas of focus for the next three to five years.

COMMENTS

The report represents collaborative efforts of the province's public health sector to develop a joint plan and extensive consultations within and outside the health sector and is an agreement on long term vision, mission, values, approach, strategic goals, and collective focus for the next three to five years.

The report describes four key pillars that comprise Ontario's public health sector:

1. At the provincial level, the government develops legislation, policies and standards and provides overall direction to the public health sector.
2. The Chief Medical Officer of Health leads the public health sector both within and outside the government.
3. Public Health Ontario provides expert scientific and technical advice to government, public health units, health care providers and others involved in public health.
4. At the municipal level, a network of 36 local public health agencies across Ontario delivers public health programs and services.

The plan centres around five strategic goals:

1. Optimize healthy human development
2. Improve the prevention and control of infectious diseases
3. Improve health by reducing preventable diseases and injuries
4. Promote healthy environments – both natural and built
5. Strengthen the public health sector's capacity, infrastructure and emergency preparedness

The report cites eight areas of collective focus:

1. Early Childhood Development, including Mental wellness and Resiliency
2. Immunization
3. Physical Activity and Healthy Eating
4. Tobacco and Alcohol
5. Built Environment
6. Information and Knowledge Systems
7. Collaborative Mechanisms
8. A Highly Competent Workforce

Overall the plan is consistent with the existing requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards and is broadly consistent in goals and objectives with a range of issues of

concern with Toronto Public Health. Specific mention of the importance of work on obesity and the built environment, early childhood development and immunization is very welcome and complementary to Toronto Public Health's own work in these areas. Staff will actively monitor progress on implementation approaches and report back as required.

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Ontario's Public Health Sector Strategic Plan