



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Public Health Agency of Canada Funding for Toronto Public Health Food Strategy Initiatives

<b>Date:</b>	November 21, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health
<b>From:</b>	Medical Officer of Health
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### SUMMARY

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has confirmed its funding for Toronto Public Health (TPH) to complete food strategy projects focussed on procurement, healthy food retail and social finance to be initiated in 2013 and completed in 2015. TPH's Food Strategy team works collaboratively with diverse partners to implement food initiatives that support healthy eating, disease prevention, healthier communities and local, diverse economic development.

A one-time 2014 TPH Operating Budget increase of \$232,335 gross and \$0 net is requested in this report with 100 percent of the funding provided by PHAC. A one-time budget adjustment of \$50,125 gross and \$0 net will be included for consideration with the TPH 2015 Operating Budget Request.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council approve a one-time TPH 2014 Operating Budget Request of \$232,335 gross and \$0 net funded 100 percent by the Public Health Agency of Canada; and,
2. Board of Health forward this report to the Budget Committee for consideration.

#### Financial Impact

Funding of \$311,760 has been approved by PHAC for work on healthy food access initiatives to be completed by TPH in collaboration with its community, institutional and private sector partners between November 2013 and March 31, 2015. A one-time adjustment of \$29,300 gross and \$0 net has been made to the 2013 TPH Operating Budget;

one-time budget adjustments of \$232,335 gross and \$0 net in 2014 and \$50,125 in 2015 are required to complete the allocation of funding to the completion of the project. No adjustments to TPH complement are required. The TPH 2014 Staff Recommended Operating Budget has been adjusted to reflect this new initiative.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of June 16, 2008, the Board of Health approved a recommendation from the Medical Officer of Health to spearhead a Toronto Food Strategy

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.HL31.1> On June 1, 2010, the Board received an update and endorsed the actions proposed in the “Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and Sustainable Food System for Toronto” report <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2008.HL15.1>. The Board of health has considered annual updates on the Toronto Food Strategy since 2010.

## **COMMENTS**

The vision of the Toronto Food Strategy is to champion and support a healthier, more sustainable food system for all. Food Strategy staff collaborate with numerous partners, including staff from a number of TPH directorates and City divisions, the community and private sector, to research, facilitate, coordinate and implement healthy food access initiatives and enabling policies that help make Toronto a healthy, vibrant place for everyone to live.

PHAC has approved 100 per cent one time funding for the 17 month period from November 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015 for a total of \$311,760 gross and \$0 net, to support the implementation of four food strategy initiatives. These include: an assessment of social finance tools; research and development of food procurement strategies to support the scaling up and sustainability of healthy food access initiatives particularly for the community food sector; implementation of a healthy corner store pilot; and evaluation of healthy food retail interventions including the Mobile Good Food Market.

TPH will work with relevant community and institutional partners on all these initiatives. For example, TPH will work in collaboration with MaRS Centre for Social Innovation to assess social financing models and their potential to provide practical support to small food retailers, to support the economic sustainability of food-related social enterprises, and to assess the economic viability of converting or improving small food retail stores to sell healthy foods.

In addition TPH will work with key community, institutional and private sector partners such as FoodShare, Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC), the Ontario Food Terminal, local farmers and private sector food distributors to assess the feasibility of various models for aggregated food procurement and distribution to improve the nutritional quality and wherever possible reduce costs of food served in the community food sector in Toronto.

In addition TPH, in collaboration with academic and community partners, will conduct an evaluation of the Mobile Good Food Market pilot and other initiatives related to promoting healthy food access in small retail stores including establishing baseline data on current consumption in test and control communities.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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