briefing note

Date: June 30, 2014
To: Members, Board of Health
From: Franz Hartmann, Executive Director
Re: HL32.2 Strategies to Prevent Heat-Related Illness and Deaths from Extreme Heat Emergencies

We request the Board of Health to adopt the following additional recommendations:

1. In order to reduce heat-related illnesses and deaths, request the MOH to work with the appropriate city officials to fast track implementing the following actions:
   a. Expand the urban tree canopy, increase green infrastructure, and expand pedestrian and bike networks to reduce the urban heat island effect;
   b. Increase energy conservation measures, incentivize developing renewable power generation in all buildings to support building a resilient distributed energy system to reduce the impact of brown-outs and black-outs.

2. Request the MOH to develop and implement a comprehensive health-focused “extreme heat prevention and preparation” public education campaign that focuses on preventative actions Torontonians can take to reduce extreme heat illnesses and deaths. The public education campaign should include:
   a. Outreach and engagement of vulnerable populations in multi-residential buildings,
   b. Community forums and partnership engagement with NGOs and community groups;
   c. Education activities that target the general public using media, social media, and the public education system.

3. Request the MOH to work with the Province of Ontario to:
   a. Develop coordinated and harmonized provincial extreme heat and cold alert systems and response plans
   b. Provide appropriate resources required to maximize prevention of, and preparation for public health emergencies that will come from heat-related illnesses and deaths due to severe heat caused by climate change

For more information, please contact: Franz Hartmann at 416-606-8881