



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Contract with the Public Health Agency of Canada for Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project Funding and Service Contract with SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building

<b>Date:</b>	September 27, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Board of Health Government Management Committee
<b>From:</b>	Acting Medical Officer of Health and Director, Purchasing and Materials Management
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 11 – York South-Weston Ward 43 – Scarborough East
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to request authority for the Acting Medical Officer of Health to enter into a contract with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to execute the Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project and to request the authority to enter into a service contract to assist in the implementation of this project.

PHAC has confirmed funding for the project to the amount of \$2,502,840 over the period of October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021 subject to contributions from the non-public sector partners of the project. The participation and contribution of the property owner of one of the demonstration sites is on condition that Toronto Public Health (TPH) enters a purchase of service contract with the vendor SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building.

Findings from outreach and engagement activities by TPH show that collaboration across City divisions, partnerships with the private sector, agencies, associations, other levels of government and the community play critical roles in making sustainable improvements to the built environment. Further, investing in apartment tower complexes in low-income neighbourhoods to create opportunities for physical activity and access to healthy food

have been identified by stakeholders and TPH as priority areas for creating a healthier Toronto.

TPH will lead the Healthy by Design Project that will demonstrate how modifications to the built environment can create physical and social environments that support physical activity, social cohesion and access to healthy food. Two Tower Renewal sites located in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) will serve as demonstration sites for the project.

The Healthy by Design Project will demonstrate how publicly accessible spaces in apartment tower sites can be modified to encourage physical activity, healthy eating and increase social interactions in the neighbourhood.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### **The Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Director, Purchasing and Materials Management recommend that:**

1. The Board of Health request City Council to approve an increase of \$24,850 gross and \$0.0 net to the Toronto Public Health 2016 Operating Budget and one temporary position to reflect 100 percent confirmed funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the lead funding agency for the Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project as outlined in the Table 1, "PHAC Funding 2016-2021."
2. The Government Management Committee recommends that City Council authorize the Acting Medical Officer of Health to negotiate, amend, execute and award a contract with SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building to participate in the Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project that is 100 percent funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada for the six year period starting October 1, 2016, for an estimated amount of \$1,942,440, net of all taxes, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Acting Medical Officer of Health and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

### **Financial Impact**

A budget adjustment for an increase of \$24,850 gross and \$0 net and an increase of one temporary position is required to Toronto Public Health's 2016 Approved Operating Budget for the Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project.

Funding will be provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Any future year financial impacts will be included in TPH's future Operating Budget submissions. The table that follows summarizes the annual cash flow for the duration of the Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project.

PHAC Funding 2016- 2021			
Year	Gross \$	Revenue \$	Net \$
2016	24,850	24,850	0
2017	918,735	918,735	0
2018	579,922	579,922	0
2019	507,693	507,693	0
2020	365,371	365,371	0
2021	106,269	106,269	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,502,840</b>	<b>2,502,840</b>	<b>0</b>

The total value of the non-competitive contract award to SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building for the implementation of a portion of the project is an estimated amount of up to \$1,942,440 gross and \$0 net over five years starting in October 2016. The payment will be based on the cost of deliverables agreed upon in the contract with SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building.

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

## DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of September 24, 2012 the Board of Health adopted [Toward Healthier Apartment Neighbourhoods report](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.2) that provides strategies and design opportunities to improve the built environment in apartment neighbourhoods to facilitate healthy living. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL16.2>

At its meeting of May 28, 2014, the Board adopted the Active City Principles and requested the MOH to host an Active City Forum, in collaboration with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the General Manager, Transportation Services, with the intention of increasing collaboration and engagement between multiple sectors and stakeholders on the implementation of these principles. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.HL31.1>

City Council on June 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2014, directed the Tower Neighbourhood Inter-Divisional Committee to oversee and coordinate the Residential Apartment Commercial pilot implementation process. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.PG33.7>

The proposed Healthy by Design: Active Apartment Neighbourhoods Project is an opportunity to realize the creation of healthier apartment neighbourhoods in Toronto.

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

The design of our urban environment influences our physical activity, nutrition, and community social networks, which are factors that influence health. Toronto's apartment neighbourhoods face many challenges, including limited access to services and amenities. Even small enhancements such as introducing new businesses such as a café or creating new walkways and public spaces can help make these neighbourhoods healthier.

Toronto Public Health engages with diverse stakeholders in planning, design and development, academia, apartment tower owners, community organizations, City divisions and other levels of government on initiatives to improve the built environment to facilitate healthy living. Through the Healthy Toronto by Design initiative and continuing work, TPH has presented evidence on how land use planning and urban design can influence health outcomes and provide opportunities to reduce health inequities. The *Active City: Designing for Health* report outlines design principles to guide changes to the built environment for creating healthy places that encourage active living for all Torontonians.

In April of 2015, TPH, City Planning and Transportation Services hosted an Active City Forum with funding from the Intohealth Partnership, a Healthy Communities Partnership funded by the Government of Ontario. The event brought together participants from City divisions, private and not-for-profit sectors, business and professional associations, other levels of government, academia, planning and design professionals to discuss ways to advance Active City design principles in the built environment. Focused investments in apartment tower neighbourhoods and creating more opportunities for physical activity in suburban areas of Toronto were two of the priority action areas recommended by Forum participants.

## COMMENTS

TPH was invited by PHAC to apply for funding for a multi-sectoral project to demonstrate how modifying the built environment in apartment tower communities with health in mind can encourage physical activity, improve access to healthy food and create healthier neighborhoods. Publicly accessible spaces, which were appropriate and available for modification, at apartment towers participating in the City's Tower Renewal Program were considered potential project demonstration sites. In consultation with the Tower and Neighborhood Revitalization Unit of the Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) Division, TPH engaged with property owners at two Tower Renewal sites located in Neighborhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) – 4000 to 4010 Lawrence Avenue East and 1765 & 1775 Weston Road – to prepare the project proposal for PHAC funding. Other organizations and City divisions involved in the project proposal include The East Scarborough Storefront, United Way of Toronto and York, Healthier Cities and Communities Hub at the University of Toronto, Progress Place, E.R.A. Architects Inc., Gladki Planning Associates, City Planning and SDFA.

PHAC has granted \$2,502,840 in funds to TPH to lead a project for implementing healthy built environment projects at two Tower Renewal sites located in NIAs. PHAC funding period is October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021 (Attachment 1). A condition of the funding by PHAC is that costs associated with construction of physical structures and landscaping as part of the project is delivered by the property owner of the demonstration site. A condition of the property owner of the demonstration site at 4000 to 4010 Lawrence Avenue East is that TPH enters into a Purchase of Service contract with SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building (Attachment 2).

SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building is uniquely qualified to lead the project as they have already initiated the preliminary planning and design work at the demonstration site in collaboration with the property owner and other agencies working on site; they also meet the professional qualifications to implement Active City Design principles. SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building will be the lead contractor for architectural and planning services, project management, permits and City approvals for the project.

The project will demonstrate how modifications to the built environment can promote physical activity, healthy food choices and facilitate social interactions. The project deliverables also include: tools and resources for implementing active design principles; strengthened TPH collaboration with stakeholders in community design and development; engaging with residents in planning and design of proposed changes; promoting healthy living among residents at the demonstration site; evaluation, reporting and dissemination of project findings.

The Fair Wage Office has reported that SUSTAINABLE.TO Architecture + Building has reviewed and understood the Fair Wage Policy and Labour Trades requirements and have agreed to comply fully.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Barbara Yaffe  
Acting Medical Officer of Health

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Michael Pacholok, J.D.  
Director, Purchasing and Materials  
Management

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Funding Confirmation Letter from the Public Health Agency of Canada  
Attachment 2: Letter confirming the services of SUSTAINABLE.TO