

A Climate of Concern: Climate Change and Health Strategy for Toronto

Re: PY2.1b

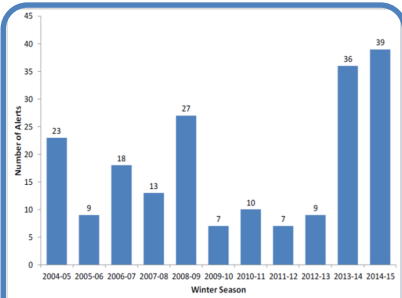


**Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health
June 29, 2015**

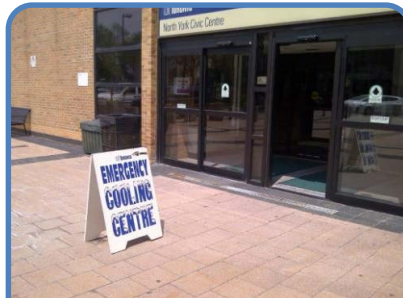
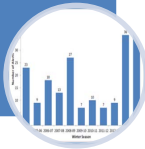
The Strategy will:

- Increase Toronto Public Health's (TPH) understanding and response to the health effects of climate change
- Build on existing TPH work
- Complement existing municipal efforts in responding to the health effects of climate change

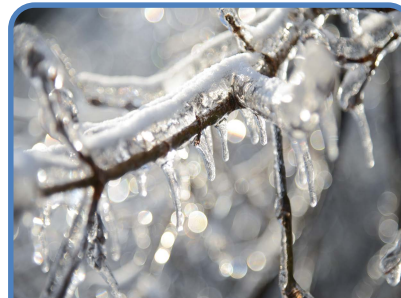
Key Areas of Concern



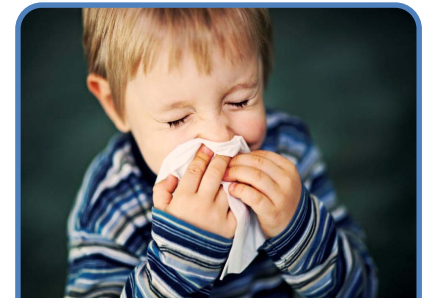
Cold Weather



Hot Weather



Severe Weather



Air Quality



Built Environment



Vector Borne Disease



Water



Food

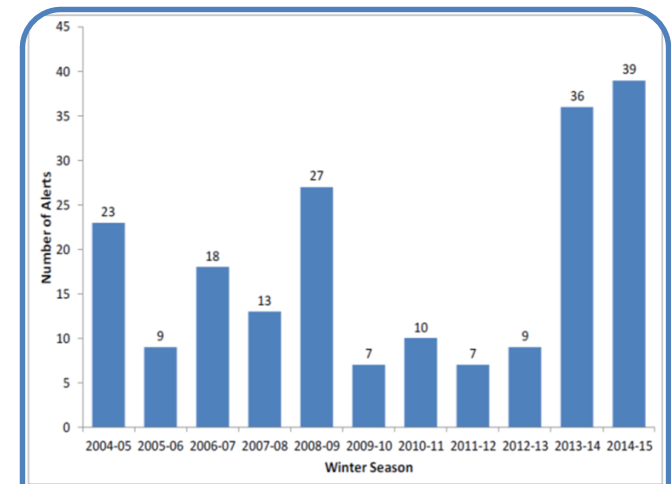


The Issue:

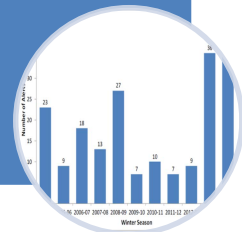
- Climate change is associated with volatile swings in weather and there may be more frequent and extreme cold spells
- Vulnerable populations are at particular risk (e.g. people with pre-existing illness, the elderly, the marginally housed and homeless)

Action Outcomes:

- Cold research will enable enhancements to the Cold Weather Response Plan



Protecting Health
during Extreme
Cold Weather



The Issue:

- Modelling suggests by 2049, Toronto will experience 46 additional days per year where the temperature exceeds 30°C and increases in the health burden of heat related illness

Action Outcomes:

- Policy and educational approaches will increase protection of vulnerable populations from the impacts of extreme heat



Protecting
Health during
Extreme Heat



The Issue:

- Severe weather events (e.g. rain, ice, wind storms) are likely to increase
- They can have direct (injury) and indirect (water-borne illness) effects on health

Action Outcomes:

- The health sector will be better prepared to plan and respond to severe weather impacts



Preventing the
Health Impacts of
Severe Weather



The Issue:

- Warmer weather and increased carbon-dioxide in the air is expected to increase the production of pollen and extend the pollen season

Action outcomes:

- Exploration of the burden of asthma and allergies will identify interventions to reduce exposure to pollen under a changed climate



Air Quality and
Climate Change



The Issue:

- The way we design, plan and build our cities impacts health

Action outcomes:

- Design choices which reduce climate change impacts on health (eg. active transportation and reduced urban heat island)



The Built
Environment and
Climate Change



The Issue:

- Warmer weather and longer summers are expected to expand the geographic range of animals and insects that carry diseases

Action outcomes:

- An updated West Nile Virus Adulticiding Plan and development of a Lyme Disease Action Plan will prevent or lower cases of vector-borne diseases



Preventing
Vector-borne
Diseases



The Issue:

- Extreme rainfall increase the chance of flooding which can affect beach and drinking water quality

Action outcomes:

- Ongoing monitoring of climate change impacts on drinking water and beach water quality will protect Torontonians



Water, Climate
Change and
Health



The Issue:

- Climate change and health are linked across the food system.
- For example, drought could impact agriculture, increase costs and decrease accessibility, especially for people on low incomes

Action outcomes:

- Promotion of sustainable diets that consider low carbon strategies will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve health



Food System
Safety and
Security



- Engage key stakeholders and communities
- By December 2016 report on progress in implementing the Strategy

