



City Clerk's Office

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March 27, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Toronto Indigenous Overdose Strategy (Item HL3.1)

The Toronto Board of Health, during its meeting on February 25, 2019, adopted Item [HL3.1](#), as amended, and:

1. Endorsed the Toronto Indigenous Overdose Strategy, as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (February 6, 2019) from the Medical Officer of Health.
2. Again urged the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to fund and support the development of Indigenous-led overdose prevention and response action plans at the federal and provincial levels.
3. Urged the federal and provincial governments to align 2019/2020 (and beyond) funding calls with practical and immediate overdose responses, in particular, access to funding supports for Indigenous agencies to create, strengthen, and enhance culturally-safe outreach, mobile, and peer support services to Indigenous Peoples who use substances.
4. Urged the federal and provincial governments to contribute funding to Toronto Public Health's Toronto Urban Health Fund Indigenous Stream, which is under development, to support Indigenous agencies.
5. Urged the federal and provincial governments to contribute funding to Toronto Public Health's Toronto Urban Health Fund to enhance support to Indigenous-specific programs and services in mainstream organizations to expand their outreach and harm reduction capacity.
6. Urged the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to dedicate funding for 24/7 Indigenous-led Consumption and Treatment Services in Toronto, as part of the new Consumption and Treatment Services Program.
7. Urged the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure the availability of culturally-safe medical care to Indigenous Peoples who use substances now and into the future. Health care providers should explore opportunities to support the use of traditional medicines and approaches to healing, including facilitating access to Ceremony, Healing Circles, Elders, and/or Healers, for their Indigenous clients.

8. Urged the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to require all provincially-funded health care providers that provide medical services to Indigenous Peoples in Toronto to demonstrate accountability through formal mandates and strategic plans for their investments and outcomes related to culturally-safe care for Indigenous Peoples, including ongoing Indigenous cultural-safety training and education for non-Indigenous health care providers.
9. Urged the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to increase and target funding to support the development and operationalization of culturally-safe, appropriate, and on-demand abstinence-based treatment spaces for Indigenous Peoples.
10. Directed that the Toronto Indigenous Overdose Strategy, as outlined in Attachment 1 to the report (February 6, 2019) from the Medical Officer of Health, be forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle, the City's Aboriginal Affairs Committee, the City's Indigenous Affairs Office, the City's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division, the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council, and all local public health units in Ontario.
11. Directed the Medical Officer of Health to provide a one-year progress report on the implementation of the Toronto Indigenous Overdose Strategy to the Board of Health and the Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle in 2020.
12. Requested that Michelle Sault, Principal Consultant, Minokaw Consulting, make a presentation on the Toronto Indigenous Overdose Strategy at a future Board of Health meeting in 2019.

To view this item and background information online, please visit:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL3.1>.

Please note that the above recommendations have been sent to the Prime Minister, the Premier, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and various organizations listed in Recommendation 10.

Sincerely,

Julie Lavertu

Julie Lavertu/ar
Secretary
Board of Health

Sent (via e-mail) to the following organizations and individuals:

- The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (sent under separate cover)
- Tracy Sheridan, Manager, Health Access and Equity, Toronto Public Health (sent for the attention of the Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle)
- Selina Young, Manager, Indigenous Affairs Office, City of Toronto (sent for the attention of the Aboriginal Affairs Committee and the City's Indigenous Affairs Office)
- Paul Raftis, Interim General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, City of Toronto

- Crystal Basi, Executive Director, Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council

Sent (via e-mail) to the following Public Health Units in Ontario:

- Algoma Public Health
- Brant County Health Unit
- Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit
- Durham Region Health Department
- Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Halton Region Health Department
- Hamilton Public Health Services
- Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
- Huron County Health Unit
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
- Lambton Public Health
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- Middlesex-London Health Unit
- Niagara Region Public Health Department
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- Northwestern Health Unit
- Ottawa Public Health
- Peel Public Health
- Perth District Health Unit
- Peterborough Public Health
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Public Health Sudbury and Districts
- Region of Waterloo Public Health
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit
- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- Southwestern Public Health
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Timiskaming Health Unit
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
- Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
- York Region Public Health Services

cc (via e-mail):

- Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health
- Meenakshi Jha, Administrative Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health