

## Board of Health

<b>Meeting No.</b>	29	<b>Contact</b>	Julie Lavertu, Committee Administrator
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday, November 19, 2018	<b>Phone</b>	416-397-4592
<b>Start Time</b>	1:00 PM	<b>E-mail</b>	boh@toronto.ca
<b>Location</b>	Committee Room 1, City Hall	<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Joe Mihevc

HL29.2	ACTION	Amended		Ward: All
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### Heat Relief Services

#### Board Recommendations

The Board of Health recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, to work with the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services, as well as other relevant City Divisions and Toronto Public Health, to promote heat relief strategies, using the initiatives identified in the report (November 14, 2018) from the Medical Officer of Health, as part of their divisional mandates.
2. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, in collaboration with Toronto Public Health, to lead an interim work group to coordinate the implementation of heat relief strategies for 2019 and, as part of this interim work group, to develop a strategy for dealing with units that are dangerous from a heat perspective.

#### Decision Advice and Other Information

The Board of Health:

1. Forwarded the report (November 14, 2018) from the Medical Officer of Health to the City of Toronto's Resilience Office as input to the upcoming Resilience Strategy for the City of Toronto.

#### Origin

(November 14, 2018) Report from the Medical Officer of Health

## **Summary**

In March 2018, the Board of Health directed the Medical Officer of Health to review the Heat Relief Network that would increase access to cool spaces and to complete the review of the Cooling Centres, as previously directed by Council. This report makes recommendations on how City Divisions can work collaboratively to create a coordinated heat relief response.

Published evidence shows that access to cooling is a key intervention to reduce the impacts of hot weather on health. In Toronto, there are many locations that provide a space for people to seek relief from the heat, including over 250 City facilities, such as community centres and libraries, pools, and a network of shelters and drop-in services. This past summer, many of these facilities were actively promoted as part of the Heat Relief Network.

To put the City in a stronger position to protect residents from extreme heat, the City needs a coordinated proactive response from a City-wide, strategic, and operational perspective. The forthcoming Resilience Strategy will offer an opportunity for the impact of hot weather to be considered systematically along with other extreme weather events.

A continued focus on enhancing communication and increasing access to the many cool spaces that already exist across the City is needed to further build community resilience to extreme heat. This approach is in keeping with those in other major North American cities that maximize access to cooling by promoting a broad range of publicly accessible air conditioned spaces and placing emphasis on effectively communicating their availability. To accomplish this, a work group is recommended to coordinate the strategies that have been shown to be effective, such as a media campaign that promotes "neighbour checking"; web-based information; a process for adding organizations to the Network; and supporting City Divisions to implement heat relief initiatives as part of their mandates.

## **Background Information**

(November 14, 2018) Revised Report from the Medical Officer of Health on Heat Relief Services

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-121744.pdf>

(November 8, 2018) Report from the Medical Officer of Health on Heat Relief Services

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-121446.pdf>

## **Speakers**

Geordie Dent, Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations