



REPORT FOR ACTION

Promoting and Ensuring Accountability at Toronto Public Health

Date: December 18, 2019

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report responds to the Board of Health's request to report on the current audits that have been conducted at Toronto Public Health, including details on promoting and ensuring accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. The Board of Health receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

On December 9th, 2019, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report on the current audits that have been conducted at Toronto Public Health, including details on promoting and ensuring accountability.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL12.5>.

COMMENTS

Toronto Public Health is subject to a legislative framework which includes a number of reporting requirements and audits aimed at promoting and ensuring accountability for: delivering programs and services in accordance with ministry published standards, protocols, and guidelines; using provincial funding in an efficient manner and for its intended purpose; executing good governance and management practice; and achieving a high standard and quality of practice in the delivery of public health programs and services.

In 2018, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) introduced the modernized [Ontario Public Health Standards \(OPHS\): Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability \(Standards\)](#) which included an Accountability Framework that outlined the parameters and requirements that hold boards of health accountable and reinforces the Ministry of Health's expectations of boards of health. To meet the objectives set out in the Framework, Toronto Public Health has established a system to monitor, analyze and report on programs and services planning, performance, and budgets. This information is communicated to the Ministry either annually and/or quarterly through the Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission, Quarterly Standard Activity Reports, Annual Performance and Financial Report, Annual Report and Attestation, including the Program Outcome Indicators and Risk Management Report.

As part of the terms and conditions of the grants from the Province, all Toronto Public Health programs that are Ministry of Health or Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services that are fully funded by the province or cost-shared with City of Toronto are subject to an annual financial audit. These programs account for approximately 92 percent of Toronto Public Health's gross annual operating budget. The audits are currently completed by the City's contracted audit service provider, Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Toronto Public Health is also subject to value-for-money audits conducted by the provincial Auditor General. In the last six years, Toronto Public Health has been selected along with other Public Health Units to participate in three significant value-for-money audits: [Food Safety Inspection Program Audit](#) (2019), [Chronic Disease Prevention Audit](#) (2017), [Immunization Audit](#) (2014).

In summary, Toronto Public Health's financials, operations, and risks are subject to a number of reporting mechanisms, including financial and value-for-money audits, by the Ministry of Health, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Auditor General of Ontario.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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