



## REPORT FOR ACTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT

### 2020 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program - Capital Project

**Date:** September 3, 2020

**To:** Board of Health

**From:** Medical Officer of Health

**Wards:** All

#### REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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The attachment to this report contains information explicitly supplied in confidence to the City of Toronto by the Province of Ontario.

#### SUMMARY

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On November 20, 2019 the Government of Ontario launched the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP). Through this 100 percent Ministry of Health funded program, local public health departments are to ensure the provision of dental treatment to low-income seniors. In Toronto, the OSDCP treatment services are provided to eligible seniors through dental clinics located in Toronto Public Health sites, Community Health Centres and Aboriginal Health Access Centres.

On August 31, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced new, one-time capital funding of \$25 million to expand access to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. The funding will be used to support infrastructure projects across the province, including building new dental clinics and renovating existing facilities. The Province has indicated that a portion of this funding will be allocated to dental clinics in Toronto.

This report recommends increasing Toronto Public Health's 2020 Capital Budget to accept the new provincial funding to expand the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program in Toronto.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Toronto Public Health 2020 Capital Budget for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Capital Project by the amount contained in Confidential Attachment 1.
2. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health to enter into the Capital Funding Agreements with the dental clinics contained in Confidential Attachment 1 for the receipt and expenditure of funding on such terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the Medical Officer of Health and in a form approved by the City Solicitor.
3. City Council authorize the public release of Confidential Attachment 1 following the Province of Ontario's public release of the funding allocation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The Ministry of Health has approved additional one-time funding for capital purchases in support of the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. The amount of the funding and the proposed increase to Toronto Public Health's 2020 Capital budget is contained in Confidential Attachment 1.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed the report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its February 19, 2020 meeting, City Council approved an increase to Toronto Public Health's 2020 Staff Recommended Capital Budget by \$1.147 million gross to add a new capital project, "Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program", fully funded by the Ministry of Health.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX13.2>

## **COMMENTS**

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In April 2019, the Province announced a new publicly-funded Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) for low-income seniors. The OSDCP provides free, routine dental services for low-income Ontarians who are 65 years of age or older and deemed eligible for the program. The OSDCP was launched in November 2019 and implementation is underway. As part of the implementation process, Toronto Public Health (TPH) applied for funding to procure or construct infrastructure to support program delivery clinics located within Toronto Public Health sites, Community Health Centres and Aboriginal Health Access Centres.

On August 31, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced new, one-time capital funding of \$25 million to expand access to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program. The funding will be used to support infrastructure projects across the province, including building new dental clinics and renovating existing facilities. The Province has indicated that a portion of this funding will be allocated to dental clinics in Toronto and that the funding will be available until March 31, 2021. Further to this, the Province has indicated that there will be an opportunity to submit a request for an extension beyond March 31, 2021. This extension is critical for TPH to be able to fully use the one-time funds.

This report recommends increasing Toronto Public Health's 2020 Capital Budget to accept the new provincial funding to expand the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program in Toronto.

The ODSCP provides access to dental care for seniors who may otherwise face financial barriers in accessing needed prevention and treatment services. Given the essential role that oral health plays in overall health, it is recommended to accept this one-time funding.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Dr. Eileen de Villa  
Medical Officer of Health

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Confidential Attachment 1 - Funding Allocation from the Ministry of Health for Toronto Public Health 2020 Capital Budget and Proposed Locations for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Capital Projects