

2023: A Year-in-Review of Toronto Public Health

Date: March 11, 2024

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of Toronto Public Health's main accomplishments and programs provided to City of Toronto residents during 2023. This report also highlights some of the innovative strategies and program achievements, as well as Toronto Public Health's key priorities for Toronto in 2024 and beyond.

The full 2023 year-in-review summary is provided in Attachment 1 of this report.

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

In January 2020, the Board of Health adopted Item HL13.4, 2019: A-Year-in Review of Toronto Public Health. The report provided an overview of the changes, transitions and opportunities experienced by Toronto Public Health in 2019, and highlighted key priorities for 2020.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.HL13.4>

COMMENTS

This past year, Toronto Public Health transitioned from a pandemic response model into a new organization well-positioned to meet the public health needs of Toronto residents. Marking the third anniversary of the first COVID-19 case in our city on January 25, 2023, Toronto Public Health continued its efforts on the COVID-19 response throughout the year.

While keeping a focus on COVID-19, Toronto Public Health also monitored emerging public health issues, such as the mpox resurgence and the drug toxicity crisis, as well as collaborated with our City of Toronto colleagues on matters requiring a whole-of-government approach, such as climate change and wildfire smoke response.

Toronto Public Health's work over the year followed four main themes: partnerships; health equity; leveraging data; and routine public health programs.

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Next Steps

Looking to 2024, Toronto Public Health is beginning a process to establish the organization's strategic directions for 2024 and beyond, led by the Board of Health. Collaboration with the provincial Ministry of Health on measures to strengthen local public health will continue, including advocating for sustainable funding and policy initiatives that prioritize the health of all Torontonians.

2024 marks a new chapter for Toronto Public Health as we look to post-pandemic recovery, aligning our work to best advance the health of Torontonians, address health inequities, and ensure we can effectively respond to disease outbreaks and emergencies.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Public Health 2023 Year-in-Review