

April 11, 2024

Board of Health
City Hall, Committee Room 1
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Board Members,

Re: Toronto Public Health's Role in Preventing and Addressing Cancer in Toronto

Cancer is a leading cause of death in Ontario. Different kinds of cancer have different risk factors including smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, certain types of infections, and UV exposure. Data from the [Toronto Public Health Population Health Profile \(2023\)](#) indicate that an increasing number of Toronto residents were overdue for breast, cervical, or colorectal cancer screening in 2020. In addition, Toronto's liver cancer incidence rate is higher than the Ontario rate and is seventh-highest out of all public health units.

Every day, Toronto Public Health works to protect and promote population health in our city. This includes working across the city to reduce the risk of cancer through advancing policies that support health and well-being, changing the environment to reduce exposure to health hazards, and promoting initiatives that enhance awareness and education.

To better understand Toronto Public Health's involvement in addressing cancer at a population level, I am requesting staff report back to the Board of Health in October 2024 outlining TPH's role and actions to prevent and address cancer in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The Board of Health request the Medical Officer of Health to report back to the Board of Health in October 2024 on Toronto Public Health's role and actions to prevent and address cancer in Toronto.

Chris Moise

City Councillor

Ward 13 - Toronto Centre