

**CITY OF TORONTO**  
**HEAT RELIEF STRATEGY**  
**(2020)**

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## SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General

The City of Toronto's Heat Relief Strategy (the "Strategy", formerly known as the Hot Weather Response Plan) is its protocol for hot weather response. The heat season generally begins on May 15 and ends on September 30 each year, although there may be occasions where periods of heat fall outside of this range. Since 2000, the Hot Weather Response Committee (the "Committee") has developed, monitored and continuously improved Toronto's response to hot weather. Committee members consist mainly of key partners who provide direct services under the Strategy.

The Heat Relief Strategy is a living document and is reviewed and up-dated on an annual basis. An electronic version of the plan is provided to Committee members, in addition to being posted on the City of Toronto website. It is the responsibility of each Committee member to ensure all those involved in the response are familiar with the current response activities.

In the event of a severe and prolonged heat event, additional actions may be implemented at a divisional or corporate level under the provisions of Toronto Public Health's (TPH) or the [City's Emergency Plan](#).

### 1.2 Exceptional circumstances in 2020 due to COVID-19

Until 2020, Toronto Public Health was normally responsible for overseeing the coordination, planning, and implementation of the Heat Relief Strategy. In 2020, Council directed a transition to ownership between TPH and the Deputy City Manager of Infrastructure and Development Services. However, in light of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, and declaration of an emergency in the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario, TPH resources have been diverted to support the City's emergency planning and response efforts. As a result, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been tasked with the Strategy for 2020. A team of staff from across the City have been redeployed to support the review and implementation of the 2020 Strategy, including liaising with the Committee.

Each year, the Committee has a pre-season meeting to confirm the coordination and implementation of the Strategy and a post-season de-brief to review the effectiveness of the response during the summer season. In 2020, the Committee will also meet periodically throughout the summer season to ensure that the plan continues to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation. Committee members are encouraged to stay up to date with information on [extreme heat](#) and [COVID-19](#) by visiting Toronto Public Health's website periodically throughout the hot weather season.

### 1.3 Purpose

The 2020 Heat Relief Strategy outlines the implementation and coordination of hot weather response activities, with a focus on providing targeted relief for the most vulnerable populations who will have the highest risk of negative health outcomes due to extreme heat.

#### **1.4 Scope**

The Strategy outlines the approach, roles, and responsibilities of the key partners described in this plan, who provide city-wide heat relief-related services and response. It does not include direction, guidance, or responsibilities of other parties (e.g. private landlords, businesses, community agencies), or individuals.

#### **1.5 Health Impacts**

Extreme heat is associated with a number of health impacts ranging from heat stress to heat stroke or more serious effects, such as cardiovascular-related disease and/or death. Everyone is vulnerable to the effects of extreme heat, but certain groups of people are more at risk than others. These groups of people include socially isolated seniors, racialized minorities, people who are unemployed or underemployed, recent immigrants and people whose first language is not English. Other at-risk groups include people with chronic and pre-existing illnesses, people who are not acclimatized to hot weather, children, outdoor workers and people who are under-housed or experiencing homelessness. In addition, people taking certain medications (for example, for mental health conditions), may also be at a greater risk.

In an effort to deliver a more targeted response during the COVID-19 emergency, the Strategy focuses on two vulnerable populations with many of the risk factors identified above: 1) residents in apartment buildings and rooming houses without access to cool spaces, and 2) people experiencing homelessness. Since the current public health guidance to manage the spread of COVID-19 is for residents to stay home and practice physical distancing, there is a need to ensure that those who are most vulnerable to extreme heat are provided with targeted outreach.

TPH and Environment and Climate Change Canada estimate that heat contributes to an average of 120 premature deaths per year in the City<sup>1</sup>. Note that this estimate is based on normal circumstances when people have a wider range of options for heat relief. Based on [Toronto's Future Weather & Climate Driver Study](#), as Toronto experiences hotter days and longer heat episodes in the future, the impact of heat on health is expected to increase. In 2018, there were 10 Heat Warning Days, and 6 Extended Heat Warning Days (see Heat Warning statistics [archive](#)). It is projected that by 2040-2050, the City can expect to experience approximately 66 days with maximum temperatures above 30°C.

#### **1.6 Authority**

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<sup>1</sup> Pengelly, L.D., Campbell, M.E., Cheng, C.S., Fu, C., Gingrich, S.E., Macfarlane, R. 2007. Anatomy of heat waves and mortality in Toronto. Lessons for public health protection. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 98(5), 364-368.

The current authority for implementing the Heat Relief Strategy is provided through City of Toronto Council directive. It states that “the Hot Weather Response Plan piloted in 2001 be implemented on an annual basis and the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary steps to give effect thereto” (*Clause No.1 Report No.3 of the Board of Health adopted by Council on April 16, 17 and 18, 2002 in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 27 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code*). In 2019, City Council further directed the Medical Officer of Health, the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services, and the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, to collaborate on the continued implementation of the Strategy through the Resilience Strategy and the Heat Relief Working Group (*2019.HL 10.4 Strengthening Heat Resilience in the City of Toronto, adopted by Council on November 26, 2019*).

A heat event, generally referring to unusually hot temperatures and/or high Humidex readings as compared to the typical regional average for that season, is initially forecasted as a Heat Warning, and may escalate to a Severe and Prolonged Heat Event (see definitions in section 1.8 Key Terms). In such circumstances, other measures in addition to those identified in the Strategy may become necessary and may include the declaration of an emergency. The Mayor, under the provisions of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 59 and provincial legislation, Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, has the legal authority to declare an emergency and to take necessary protective measures. Note that at this time, the City is currently in a state of emergency due to COVID-19.

Chapter 59 also establishes the Toronto Emergency Management Program Committee (TEMPC) comprised of a number of key executives, including the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) who has the lead role in providing advice and direction on health-related matters. Other members of TEMPC include the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, City Manager, the three Deputy City Managers and other senior officials.

### **1.7 Members of the Hot Weather Response Committee**

The Heat Relief Strategy includes both City and community partners. Committee members who provide direct services under the plan are listed below. Section 4 of the Strategy (Roles and Responsibilities) outlines all the pre-agreed activities for each member.

### **1.8 Key Terms**

**Heat Warnings** are issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada, when there is a forecast of two consecutive days with daytime high temperatures  $\geq 31^{\circ}\text{C}$ , together with overnight low temperatures  $\geq 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , or Humidex values  $\geq 40$ .

#### **Severe and Prolonged Heat Event / Heat Emergency**

Although no specific conditions trigger this event, the magnitude or the discussions amongst City staff may be sufficient to refer to the event as such.

## **SECTION 2 2020 STRATEGY**

## 2.1 Need for a new strategy

During the COVID-19 emergency, residents are being advised by the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to limit contact through physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the cool spaces traditionally available during the hot weather season for the public to seek relief have temporarily closed, limited their hours of operation, or restricted access. This may present as a challenge to the City's most vulnerable populations, as they typically go outside or visit public cool spaces for heat relief. As such, the redeployed Heat Relief Team is working with the Committee to revise the 2020 Strategy and adjust heat relief activities to appropriately support the city's most vulnerable populations from the effects of extreme heat.

This may result in a temporary departure from or modification of hot weather activities that have been carried out in the past (e.g. full implementation of a city-wide Heat Relief Network), and introduction of interim measures. Additionally, the team will consider the feasibility and practicality of implementing various activities and recent recommendations, such as continuing to transition the City's hot weather response activities to an all-summer approach.

## 2.2 Strategic priorities for 2020

At this time, Toronto Public Health recommends that the focus for the 2020 Heat Relief Strategy should be on providing targeted relief for the most vulnerable populations who will have the highest risk of negative health outcomes during a heat event. Both of these groups may include individuals who are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19:

1. Residents of apartment towers and rooming houses without access to cool spaces, including seniors and those with pre-existing health conditions
2. People experiencing homelessness

Additionally, in the event that public health measures, including physical distancing recommendations are lifted or loosened during the summer, the Committee will prepare for a launch of the full or modified Heat Relief Network, adapting to COVID-19 recommendations as needed. In 2019, the Heat Relief Network included more than 300 locations across the city that the public could access for heat relief, including libraries, community centres and pools, some Civic Centres and City facilities, drop-ins, and several private and public non-profit organizations, including some shopping malls and YMCA locations.

## 2.3 Updated approach – a comprehensive strategy

	Previous strategy	2020 strategy – options to explore
1. Heat relief guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beat the Heat campaign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Beat the Heat materials, distributed through various channels.</li> </ul>
2. City-wide cooling opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heat Relief Network of 300+ cool spaces open all summer</li> <li>- Online interactive map.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Emergency Cooling Centres during Heat Warnings.</a></li> <li>- Update online information.</li> <li>- Make Heat Relief Network available as spaces reopen.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide guidance to community organizations who wish to open their own cooling centres.</li> </ul>
3. Cooling in apartment buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information on tenant notification boards.</li> <li>- Shoulder season communications.</li> <li>- Neighbour checking program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update information for tenant notification boards.</li> <li>- Develop cooling room guidance for landlords.</li> <li>- Continue shoulder season communications.</li> </ul>
4. Support for vulnerable residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not an explicit part of the Strategy, but financial support for A/C purchase available through TESS Hardship Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore feasibility of a program or process to support vulnerable residents who are required to self-isolate.</li> <li>- Access to TESS Hardship Fund will continue.</li> </ul>
Cooling for people experiencing homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shelters, drop-ins, 24-hour respites were part of the Heat Relief Network.</li> <li>- Street outreach through Fred Victor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that shelters and 24-hour respites have heat relief options.</li> <li>- Continue street outreach through Fred Victor.</li> </ul>

Blue = major changes due to COVID-19

### **SECTION 3 OPERATIONS**

#### **3.1 Heat Warnings Issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**

Environment and Climate Change Canada provides early notification of potential heat warnings to subscribed public health units and emergency management offices through their "EC Alert me" platform. Early notifications issued by ECCC will be shared with Committee members so that they can plan and/or modify operations as needed in response to potential hot weather (e.g. increased communication with clients and staff, promotion of nearby cool spaces, encouraging checking on neighbours). Committee members are also encouraged to download ECCC's WeatherCAN app to receive notifications when Heat Warnings are issued by ECCC. Note that the WeatherCAN app is also available to the public.

#### **3.2 Escalation to Severe and Prolonged Heat Event and / or Heat Emergency**

Neither a prolonged heat event nor a heat emergency is automatically triggered by a pre-determined set of weather related or other criteria. When a heat event is severe and/or prolonged, so that its effects strain the capacity of the health and social services sectors (including first responder) and/or has imminent/anticipated impacts on critical infrastructure (CI) such as hydro or water, the MOH may request the Toronto Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to activate the City of Toronto's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The EOC coordinates the response and provides an established and recognized point of authority to coordinate response resources, personnel and incident information. The decision to escalate the municipal response to an emergency category will be taken in consultation with the MOH and other impacted City Divisions, coordinated by the Toronto Office of Emergency Management.

If the decision is made to escalate the municipal response (i.e. an emergency is declared or a need is otherwise identified), municipal and agency efforts will be directed by the Toronto Emergency Management Program Committee (TEMPC) Control Group as outlined in the City of Toronto Emergency Plan. The TEMPC Control Group has the authority and responsibility to initiate, co-ordinate, direct and otherwise bring about the implementation of Toronto's Emergency Plan, expend funds required to obtain and distribute emergency materials, equipment and supplies and obtain volunteer support from public agencies. See the City of Toronto Emergency Plan for further details including emergency notification levels (See City website: [http://insideto.toronto.ca/oem/pdf/emergency\\_levels\\_table.pdf](http://insideto.toronto.ca/oem/pdf/emergency_levels_table.pdf)).

### **3.3 Communications**

Timely and effective communication of information to the public and between participating agencies is important throughout the summer, and also when Environment and Climate Change Canada issues Heat Warnings. A number of educational resources, such as "Tips to Beat the Heat", have been developed and circulated with partner agencies.

In previous years, Toronto Public Health has amplified Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Heat Warnings via social media, traditional media, and internal networks. In 2020, the Heat Relief Team will work closely with the EOC Communications team to amplify these warnings as appropriate. Stakeholders and the public are also encouraged to use ECCC's WeatherCAN application (downloadable on mobile devices) to obtain up-to-date information on the issuance of heat warnings.

The City website [www.toronto.ca/keepcool](http://www.toronto.ca/keepcool) (or as current) contains information on heat relief, including tips for residents, landlords, and pet owners. In addition, training materials about heat and health are provided to members of the Heat Relief Network to support their communication with clients and community members.

### **3.4 Occupational Health and Safety**

The City is committed to providing and maintaining safe and healthy working conditions for all employees. Staff safety during hot weather and in particular during Heat Warnings is a priority. City employees have access to further information on how to avoid heat-related illness, which is posted on the City's internal web site by Human Resources Occupational Health and Safety. Other participating agencies and members are encouraged to provide additional information to their staff.

The City's Heat Stress Policy and related Guidelines are available at:



<http://we.toronto.ca/intra/hr/policies.nsf/9fff29b7237299b385256729004b844b/5c11533205f65f4085256988006a018a?OpenDocument>

<http://we.toronto.ca/intra/hr/policies.nsf/9fff29b7237299b385256729004b844b/8c36b99c9fa9ec0285256a8e0054e46e?OpenDocument>

## **SECTION 4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **4.1 Redeployed Heat Relief Team**

A team of staff from across the City have been redeployed to support the review and implementation of the 2020 Heat Relief Strategy. The team reports to the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services and the Director, Office of Emergency Management. Working closely with Toronto Public Health and the Committee, the team is responsible for the overall administration and coordination of the Strategy. The team's key responsibilities include:

- Updating the Strategy to reflect the evolving COVID-19 situation, including monitoring federal, provincial, and municipal guidance and reopening plans.
- Chairing the Committee and providing overall leadership and direction regarding heat relief.
- Coordinating and implementing the Heat Relief Network.
- Sharing information from Environment and Climate Change Canada with Committee members (e.g. early notifications)
- Collaborate with partners in reviewing and updating hot weather educational resources (e.g., health impacts, vulnerable populations). This information will be available online and will be communicated through the media, including social media.

### **4.2 Toronto Public Health**

#### *Healthy Environments*

In 2020, some Healthy Environments responsibilities are transferred to the redeployed Heat Relief Team. Healthy Environments will:

- Act as Advisors to the EOC redeployed team.
- Consult with Environment and Climate Change Canada on forecasted Heat Warnings (if necessary).
- Receive reports of heat-related illness, including critical incidents as a result of heat-related exposure and illness.
- When requested by the MOH, conduct site visits of known rooming, boarding and lodging homes during an extended heat event.
- Investigate reports of incidents involving the death or transfer of a critical patient to hospital believed to be heat-related.

### *Vulnerable Adults and Seniors Team (VAST)*

In previous years, the Vulnerable Adults and Seniors (VAS) Team provided public education upon request on hot weather and health through presentations during the hot weather season. The VAS team also educated VAS program clients on how to protect themselves from extreme weather illness or injury. In addition, VAS clients deemed to be at risk of extreme weather-related illness by the VAS Public Health Nurse, were contacted when heat warnings or emergencies from a prolonged heat event are declared.

Due to capacity and staff redeployments for COVID-19, these services will not be running in 2020. Note that as part of COVID-19 response, Social Development, Finance, and Administration has formed a City-Community Working Group with the objective of supporting vulnerable seniors (see below).

### *Child Health and Development (CHD)*

The Child Health and Development Directorate collaborates with organizations, communities, families, caregivers, pregnant individuals and those in their reproductive years to optimize early childhood experiences, improve outcomes for newborns and children, and reduce health inequities.

During the hot weather season, CHD staff regularly share heat health information and resources with clients through home visits, groups (e.g. prenatal & parenting), clinics (e.g. breastfeeding, infant hearing and developmental screening), and community settings. CHD also has a targeted hot weather response by Public Health Nurses to known clients who may be at high risk of severe health impacts due to hot weather during Heat Warnings.

In 2020, these services will continue, however, home visits will be suspended, and services will be delivered via telework and phone where possible.

### *Performance and Standards (Emergency Planning and Preparedness)*

The Emergency Planning and Preparedness (EPP) team within TPH Performance and Standards provides emergency preparedness and business continuity planning expertise and training. The EPP team participates in networks, partnerships and public education related to emergency management. In addition, EPP can:

- Support the application of the Incident Management System model to manage the response to a severe or prolonged heat event.
- Support the use of Emergency Management Communication Tool (EMCT), which is a communication and coordination tool amongst various healthcare sector partners (e.g. hospitals, other health units), which may be used during a severe and prolonged heat event and/or hot weather emergency.
- Support the use of Emergency Response Management System (ERMS), which can send out a mass staff notification to all of TPH Staff.
- Liaise with the Toronto Office of Emergency Management on matters related to emergency management (e.g. training, systems).

### *Strategy and Preventive Health*

Throughout the summer, TPH Strategy and Preventive Health works with the MOH and other TPH staff to arrange media interviews and other communication activities related to hot weather and health, in addition to the communications role of the City of Toronto's Chief Communications Officer.

### *Communicable Disease Control*

Upon request, the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit distributes hot weather resource packages to hospitals in Toronto, discusses content that will be displayed in emergency room and their distribution to patients seen for heat-related illness.

## **4.3 City Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Corporations and Divisions**

### *311 Toronto*

311 Toronto offers a 24/7 telephone service to provide information about City Services and programs, including hot weather response and the Heat Relief Network. To support the COVID-19 response, 311, with Toronto Public Health and Municipal Licensing and Standards, is developing a chat bot to provide responses to commonly asked questions. Heat relief information may be included in the chat bot.

### *City-Community Working Group – Social Development, Finance and Administration*

The City-Community Working Group has been convened in 2020 to support the COVID-19 response. The team is separated into 10 geographic clusters, 2 population-based clusters and a city-wide cluster for the city, and work with multiple community agencies that provide supports to vulnerable seniors, homeless, and precariously housed populations including disseminating information about hot weather resources, and access to heat relief, and receiving feedback from agencies about services required, in particular with current social-distancing requirements.

### *Municipal Licensing and Standards*

Toronto Animal Services develops and disseminates hot weather safety messages for pet owners and attends to sick or injured stray dogs or cats if confined or immobile, and critically sick, injured or distressed wildlife if confined or immobile and attended by someone. Where a domestic animal's life is in imminent danger as a result of a heat event and it necessitates the removal, Toronto Police Services have jurisdiction for removal. Toronto Animal Services may provide assistance with the removal.

RentSafeTO: Apartment Building Standards is a bylaw enforcement program that ensures that building owners and operators comply with building maintenance standards, including requirements to maintain a tenant notification board with information of any air-conditioned place or other space on the property, accessible to all tenants, that can offer relief from uncomfortably warm temperatures. They must also post information about nearby publicly-

accessible air-conditioned places. Information about the Emergency Cooling Centres, and other heat-related resources, will be shared with all apartment building landlords.

*Office of Emergency Management*

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) maintains the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in a state of operational readiness. The EOC is currently activated for the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the declaration of additional emergencies is unprecedented, during a severe or prolonged heat event, the MOH may request a separate activation level for a heat emergency. During such an event, the EOC would assess how an extended heat emergency may affect COVID-19 protection measures, including its impact on critical infrastructure (e.g. paramedics, power grid, etc.)

The EOC may be activated with or without a Declaration of an Emergency. However, it will be activated once an emergency declaration has been made.

*Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR)*

Parks Ambassadors visit City parks to provide information with telephone numbers and locations of services where people who are homeless can go to cool down. During the COVID-19 response, community centres and other recreation facilities, including swimming pools and splash pad, may be closed to the public. Decisions may be made to repurpose or open some facilities to support hot weather response efforts. PFR facilities are part of the regular Heat Relief Network. In the event that physical distancing requirements and recommendations are lifted or loosened during the summer, PFR may encourage people to go to city pools or community centres to cool off, or stay in the shade in parks. A number of swimming pools may extend their hours based on weather conditions and resources up until August 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

*Shelter, Support & Housing Administration*

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) provides street outreach to the homeless through the Streets to Home Team and ensures ongoing coordination of street outreach services to people who are experiencing homelessness, provided by community agencies through SSHA's various funding streams. The street outreach program through Fred Victor will continue to operate in 2020. Additionally, SSHA is actively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, with shelters, drop-ins, and 24-hour respite sites remaining open as a critical, essential service. SSHA will consider how they will provide heat relief as part of their ongoing response.

*Toronto Community Housing Corporation*

In 2020, TCHC is continuing with an air conditioner exchange program across which is initially focused on ensuring window AC units, not over balconies, in buildings 3 or more stories are exchanged for portable floor model AC units. Through the program, remaining window air conditioners will be removed and replaced with floor models at no cost to the tenant. Working with the Heat Relief Team, TCHC will also consider opportunities to repurpose functional window air conditioners in non-TCHC buildings during summer 2020. TCHC will continue to

operate cooling rooms in their buildings, and have developed guidance on safe operation of cooling rooms.

*Toronto Paramedic Services*

Toronto Paramedic Services (TPS) works with TPH to provide heat relief support to higher risk areas in the City. TPS maintains the ability to act as key spokespersons for media requests, either through the Community Paramedicine Program or the After Hours On-Call Media Group.

As well, TPS reports critical incidents (death or transfer of an individual in critical condition to hospital believed to be heat-related, where the environmental conditions observed by the paramedic indicate possible excessive heat exposure) to TPH for investigation.

TPS maintains the ability to activate the DOC and in the event of a severe prolonged heat event would have the TPS DOC fully operational within approximately two hours to help coordinate the City's Heat Relief Strategy.

*Toronto Public Library*

To help curb the spread of COVID-19, all Toronto Public Library locations closed from Friday, March 13, 2020. In the event that physical distancing requirements and recommendations are lifted or loosened during the summer, libraries, which are part of the Heat Relief Network, may be reopened to the public, and will display key health messages about hot weather and heat-related illness throughout the summer. Libraries may be available as places for people to cool off and access water during regular business hours. Libraries also actively promote educational information through the library branches and outreach visits as well as the Home Library Service.

*Toronto Transit Commission*

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) has air conditioned vehicles that could be redeployed to provide mobile cooling options to residents during a Heat Alert. Some buses are outfitted with barriers to protect drivers, and could be available as emergency cooling spaces for people with COVID-19. With appropriate notice, up to 15 buses may be available as mobile cooling centres during a Heat Alert. Regular buses can accommodate up to 15 individuals with physical distancing restrictions in place (13 seated, and 2 standing), and articulated buses can accommodate up to 24 individuals. Working with the Heat Relief Team, TTC will explore the opportunities for use of mobile cooling in summer 2020.

#### **4.4 Community Partners**

*Ontario Community Support Association*

Members of the Ontario Community Support Association, an organization of home support agencies serving frail and isolated seniors, distributes to their clients information and education on heat-related illness. They also participate in training on recognizing the symptoms and providing first aid for heat-related illness, and contact vulnerable clients on Heat Warning days.

## *Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Environment and Climate Change Canada provides TPH and other City Divisions and community organizations with weather forecasts, Heat Warnings and consultation services as needed.

## **SECTION 5 APPENDIX**

### **5.1 Abbreviations**

EOC	Toronto Emergency Operations Centre
H-DOC	Health Division Operations Centre (EMS)
HC	Healthy Communities
CHD	Child Health and Development
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
OEM	Toronto Office of Emergency Management
SS&HA	Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
TEMPC	Toronto Emergency Management Program Committee
TPH	Toronto Public Health

### **5.2 Hot Weather Response Committee Terms of Reference**

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#### *Background*

Since 2000 the City of Toronto has coordinated hot weather response through a Heat Relief Strategy (the "Strategy", formerly known as the Hot Weather Response Plan). The Hot Weather Response Committee (the "Committee") includes member organizations that may have specific roles and responsibilities outlined within the plan. The purpose of the Committee is to provide updates on services, identify issues and make recommendations regarding improvements to the plan.

#### *Mandate*

The Committee ensures that the Strategy is reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The Committee will:

- Review and make recommendations to changes to the Strategy.
- Facilitate hot weather response communication, coordination and collaboration across divisions and member agencies.
- Identify new or emerging hot weather response issues.

#### *Accountability*

The Committee is accountable to the Board of Health, through the Medical Officer of Health.

#### *Membership*

The committee includes representation from:

- \*City-Community Working Group – Social Development, Finance and Administration
- Municipal Licensing & Standards - Toronto Animal Services
- \*Municipal Licensing & Standards – RentSafeTO
- Office of Emergency Management
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Toronto Paramedic Services
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Police Service

\*New for 2020

### *Meeting Times*

The Committee will meet in the spring prior to May 15<sup>th</sup> the start of the hot weather season and in the fall following September 30<sup>th</sup> the end of the hot weather season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Committee may meet ad-hoc throughout the hot weather season.

### **5.3 2020 Heat Relief Team**

- Amy Buitenhuis, Resilience Lead, Redeployed to Emergency Operations Centre
- David Pignataro, Environmental Health Specialist, Healthy Environments, Toronto Public Health
- Staff redeployed to support Hot Weather Response
  - Tiffany Vong, Senior Policy and Research Officer, MLS
  - Nadine Al Hajj, Project Lead, EED
  - Swinzie Chauhan, Urban Fellow in Children's Services
  - Lindsay McCallum, Program Manager, EED
- Other TPH staff providing support and advice:
  - Dr Christine Navarro, Associate Medical Officer of Health
  - Loren Vanderlinden, Manager, Healthy Public Policy

### **5.4 2020 Emergency Cooling Centre Locations**

*List accurate as of July 6, 2020*

- Scarborough Village Recreation Centre
- Amesbury Sports Complex (Arena)
- Wallace Emerson Community Centre
- Regent Park Community Centre
- Malvern Community Recreation Centre
- Domenico Di Luca Community Recreation Centre
- Metro Hall

- North York Civic Centre
- East York Civic Centre
- Etobicoke Civic Centre
- Scarborough Civic Centre
- Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre
- Mimico-Coronation Club House
- Elmbank Community Centre
- Parkdale Public Library

## **5.5 Heat-Related Decision History**

In November 2019, City Council requested the Medical Officer of Health, the Deputy City Manager, Corporate Services and the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services to collaborate on the continued implementation of the City-Wide Heat Relief Strategy through the Resilience Strategy and the Heat Relief Working Group.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL10.4>

At its meeting on March 27-28, 2019, City Council requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS), in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), as part of their Heat in Apartments Working Group to identify strategies to address indoor temperatures in apartment buildings, and in consultation with the Chief Communications Officer to increase communications to landlords and the public about the heating bylaw during shoulder season - the time period in May when warm summertime temperatures may arise early in the season. City Council also requested the Chief Planner to consider opportunities to increase access to cooling as a part of development applications.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.HL3.5>

In January 2019, City Council approved the development of an interdivisional working group to coordinate the implementation of heat relief strategies for summer 2019, and to consider specific initiatives, including neighbour checking, signage, shade structures, and cool rooms.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.OM2.1>

In May 2018, City Council directed the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to develop and implement a plan to communicate to landlords and tenants about providing heat during the shoulder seasons.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/ls/bgrd/backgroundfile-114428.pdf>

In March 2018, the Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report back on the Heat Relief Network, including the review of the Cooling Centres and assess how best people who are experiencing homelessness or are under-housed can Strengthening Heat Resilience in the City of Toronto Page 3 of 8 access cool space.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.HL25.3>

In May 2017, the Board of Health adopted a report that considered options to reduce vulnerability to extreme heat, including a vulnerable persons list.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.HL19.5>



