

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

TO: Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit

DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa

FROM: Councillor Shad Qadri

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DATE: September 18, 2017

18 septembre 2017

FILE NUMBER: ACS2017-OPH-BOH-0004

SUBJECT: **CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT**

OBJET : **RAPPORT VERBAL DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SANTÉ**

Good evening and thank you very much for joining us.

Tonight, I would like to begin by updating you on the work that has been happening at Ottawa Public Health (OPH) since we last met in June.

I would like to start by highlighting some leadership shown by both employees and members of the Board.

First, I am very proud to announce that four OPH nurses have been chosen as recipients of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA)'s [150 Nurses for Canada](#) award. To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, the CNA is recognizing nurses who continue to pioneer health innovation in Canada and around the world. These nurses are strong public advocates and leaders in advancing a client-centred approach to quality health care through traditional, innovative or inter-professional practices.

I believe some of these nurses are here with us this evening. I invite you to please stand as I say your name and I invite the audience to give these employees a round of applause. Please join me in congratulating public health nurses Erin Culley, Cynthia Horvath, Christa Poirier, and Kim Trotter!

Thank you for your passion for nursing. Our community truly benefits from your commitment and dedication.

Second, I would like to share with you that last month I had the pleasure of attending the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference. This was held in Ottawa and Dr. Levy participated in a panel on health system transformation in Ontario. As far as I am aware, this is the first time OPH has been invited to participate in the conference. I congratulate Dr. Levy on his participation and the thoughtful comments he shared on the future of public health.

Next, I would like to thank some of our Board of Health members for their involvement in the Ottawa Champions Youth Baseball Leadership Camp. Late last month, the Ottawa

Champions held a Youth Baseball Leadership Camp. The camp provided children and youth from Ottawa Community Housing and the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa the opportunity to learn baseball skills from the professional Champions players. Board Members Taylor and Tilley were on-site with me to support the event along with OPH employees. I thank you both for your leadership and attendance at this event to improve the health and wellbeing of children and youth in our community.

I would also like to thank members of the Board who walked in the Capital Pride Parade on Sunday, August 27. The parade wrapped up the annual weeklong festival that celebrates the diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans, two-spirited and queer (GLBTQ) community.

OPH has been a proud Capital Pride Parade participant since 2002. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year that OPH, in collaboration with the Board of Health, will host the City of Ottawa parade float. This year OPH encouraged the “Connect with Us” campaign, which promotes OPH’s social media channels as a key source for public health information and engagement, and the launch of OPH’s new website, [OttawaPublicHealth.ca](http://OttawaPublicHealth.ca).

This event was a wonderful opportunity to bring people together to celebrate and promote our values of diversity, inclusiveness, understanding, equality and self-expression. I would like to thank Board Members McKenney and Qaqish along with the many OPH employees who were in attendance.

These are just some of the ways our Board members are championing OPH in the community.

Finally, Board Members may be aware that last Wednesday, City Council considered a report that is expected to lead to the expansion of gambling at the current Rideau Carleton Raceway facility. During the debate, questions were raised about the public health implications of problematic gambling. I would like the record to reflect that I have asked our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Levy, to follow-up on the concerns raised by meeting with the proponents and to report back to us in the new year on the progress of those discussions.

That concludes my verbal report for this evening and I welcome any question.