

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

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18 septembre 2017

FILE NUMBER: ACS2017-OPH-MOH-0005

SUBJECT: **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT**

OBJET : **RAPPORT VERBAL DU MÉDECIN CHEF EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE**

Bonsoir, good evening,

I hope you have all had a little time to rest during the summer. As you know from my email updates, we have been engaged on a number of issues in recent months, many of which are on our agenda tonight. Before we get to that agenda I do want to briefly speak to some issues, including challenges to the City's hookah By-law, a reflection on summer activities including many Ministry consultations, and some staffing updates.

With respect to the hookah By-law, in August, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice heard a new application for an emergency injunction to block the ongoing enforcement of the “hookah ban” portion of the City’s Smoke-Free By-laws. This application alleged that a business had suffered significant financial losses due to its inability to serve shisha. Working with our Legal Counsel I did submit an affidavit opposing this injunction. The judge hearing the case determined in favour of our position.

The main challenge to the constitutionality of the By-law does – as you know – remain outstanding. That challenge, as we have discussed previously, claims that the By-law violates rights guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This challenge is set to be heard in February 2018.

Moving to other issues, June through August proved to be as busy at OPH as we had predicted. The Canada 150 celebrations generally went smoothly from our perspective, though, and I am pleased to report that we were able to work with municipal partners in supporting the city safely through summer months. Aside from the summer Canada150 celebrations, OPH also worked proactively with festival organisers to ensure the safe enjoyment by patrons at the wide variety of summer concerts.

As I know you appreciate one of the immediate and pressing issues we continue to be working on is the ongoing opioid challenge in our City. Over recent weeks we have acted to enhance our programming in support of partners and residents on this subject even further than in previous months. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter in depth later this evening, as this issue is very rapidly evolving and has many challenging elements to it. In recent weeks, the OPH clinic on Clarence Street began preparations to provide interim Supervised Injection Services (SIS). If approved, these services will be provided under the Health Canada exemption granted to the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre in July 2017, by current, qualified employees of OPH in accordance with both the requirements of Health Canada, and the applicable policies and procedures of the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre.

Summer was also unusually busy with respect to various provincial and federal consultations on a diverse range of issues that are relevant to our work. Many of these are on our agenda tonight, so I can address questions in general on these now, or later in the evening.

Looking forward to the new requirements that the province will have of us into the future, I can provide an update on staff alignment activities. In late June, I announced our new Senior Leadership Team. I am pleased to welcome Lou Flaborea who recently

joined us as Manager of Performance & Corporate Services. Some of you may recognize Lou. OPH was one of Lou's many clients when he served as Account Manager for the City of Ottawa's Financial Services Unit.

Also tonight, I welcome our new Associate MOH, Dr. Genevieve Cadieux. Genevieve, who had previously worked with us during her studies, joined us over the summer, and we are pleased to be welcoming her to the team and back to Ottawa!

Work is progressing on the staff alignment exercise, and later this month I will announce the next phase to our employees. I am developing a new structure that will position us for implementation of the 2018 provincial Standards, and our contribution to the evolving and transforming provincial health care system. We will continue to be responsive to community need and client centered, and committed to ongoing self assessment and improvement. The ongoing feedback I'm receiving from employees and the Board continues to guide me and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members through this exercise.

Just before concluding my comments tonight I want to note that this week we at OPH are pleased to be hosting Business Administrators from Public Health Units across Ontario at their annual meeting and to extend our welcome to any who may have chosen to observe this meeting tonight.

Mr Chair, that concludes my update, and as always I am happy to answer any questions.

Merci beaucoup