

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

Contact:

Councillor Shad Qadri

Chair, Ottawa Board of Health

613-580-2424 ext. 23681

shad.qadri@ottawa.ca

EXPÉDITEUR : Conseiller Shad Qadri

Personne ressource :

Conseiller Shad Qadri

Président, Conseil de santé d'Ottawa

613-580-2424, poste 23681

shad.qadri@ottawa.ca

DATE: November 9, 2015

9 novembre 2015

FILE NUMBER: ACS2015-OPH-BOH-0005

SUBJECT: CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

OBJET : RAPPORT VERBAL DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SANTÉ

Check upon delivery

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for coming out to our Board of Health meeting this evening. Over the next few minutes I hope to update you on initiatives that have taken place since our last meeting.

Keep Stittsville Healthy Day

First, together with Ottawa Public Health, on Saturday, October 24th, I hosted an event, "Keep Stittsville Healthy" at the Johnny Leroux Community Centre in Stittsville. Keep Stittsville Healthy" provided an opportunity to educate residents on important public

health topics such as mental health, parenting in Ottawa, immunization, healthy eating and physical activity. OPH hosted booths on all these topics.

I would like to thank the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, the Ottawa Public Library, Dancing Mama, Capital Vélofest, the Community Food Advisors as well as the special events volunteers who came out and participated in this event. "Keep Stittsville Healthy" attracted families, including parents and children. Those who attended commented on how happy they were to have the opportunity to engage with public health advisors one-on-one in this particular setting.

2015 Quarterly Operating Budget Q2 report and Associate Medical Officer of Health Appointment approved at Council

Next, I would like to provide an update on the two Board of Health reports that were referred to Council at our last Board of Health meeting.

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Health recommendation to appoint Dr. Robin Taylor as Associate Medical Officer of Health was endorsed by Ottawa City Council in late October. A letter has now been brought forward to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care requesting her official appointment.

Also in late October, City Council approved the quarterly financial report recommending the creation of five full-time equivalent positions to provide dental health services for Ottawa's Urban Aboriginal Community at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health. We will be hearing more about dental programs and services from Dr. Burry later this evening.

Keeping party-safe – Drug and alcohol consumption around Halloween

Finally, late last month, Ottawa Public Health (OPH), in partnership with Ottawa Paramedic Service, Ottawa Police Service, and the Ottawa Hospital, released a public service announcement encouraging residents to stay safe while celebrating Halloween.

Every year on Halloween, Ottawa sees a spike of alcohol and drug-related emergency room visits. Excessive alcohol and drug use can lead to falls, increased violence and potentially dangerous alcohol intoxication. In addition, there is an increased risk of alcohol and drug-facilitated sexual assaults.

Use of illegal drugs such as MDMA can have life threatening and potentially fatal consequences. Made up of many different chemicals, the exact strength and ingredients

of each pill are always unknown, which makes it difficult to determine the most effective medical treatments for the unexpected side effects.

Through the public service announcement and numerous media interviews, our partners proactively encouraged residents to plan their evening and stay safe. Suggestions included not mixing alcohol and drugs, planning travel home and seeking help immediately if feeling unsafe or unwell.

As the Chair of Crime Prevention Ottawa and the Ottawa Board of Health I am pleased to see that our first responders, OPH, and the Ottawa Police are working together to keep our community safe.

That concludes my comments for this evening. I would be happy to take any questions from Board members.

Thank you.