

2. **PROVINCIAL BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT ON PUBLIC HEALTH RESTRUCTURING**

ACS2019-OPH-BOH-0007

In the context of her Verbal Update to the Board of Health, Dr. Etches spoke to a PowerPoint presentation in which she described the work of local public health units and of Ottawa Public Health in particular, she referenced the importance of local partnerships in promoting and advancing public health policies and initiatives and she highlighted the value of public health in terms of improved quality of life and savings to the health care system in general. She also provided an overview of recent Provincial proposals for restructuring Ontario's health system. In particular, she talked about:

- The creation of Ontario Health Teams, the processes related to that and some of the preliminary discussions held to date with partners and colleagues; and
- Announcements in the 2019 Provincial Budget, released on April 11, 2019, with respect to changes to the number of public health units in Ontario, their governance model and funding formula.

Following Dr. Etches' presentation, and before hearing from public delegations, Chair Egli read two motions into the record:

Motion 4/3

WHEREAS the Provincial government's 2019 Budget, released on April 11, 2019 announced some significant changes to how public health services in Ontario are structured, governed and funded;

AND WHEREAS there are many unknowns about how and when the Province proposes to implement these changes;

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AND WHEREAS the Province is proposing to reduce the number of health units in Ontario from 35 locally-based health units to 10 regionally based health units;

AND WHEREAS local public health is known for its responsiveness to local needs, basing many of its programs and services on local evidence, data, and priorities;

AND WHEREAS the proposed restructuring is likely to result in a loss of local control and local responsiveness of public health programs and services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit request that Ottawa City Council:

- Request that the Mayor of Ottawa write to the Province of Ontario to communicate Council's unequivocal support for the work of Ottawa Public Health;
- Request the Province maintain the health protection, health promotion, and prevention mandate of Ottawa Public Health;
- Request the Province maintain the current 75 percent provincial, 25 percent municipal funding formula for Ottawa Public Health and public health programs in Ontario; and
- Request the Province initiate consultations with municipalities and public health agencies on the public health system in Ontario.

Motion 4/4

WHEREAS on February 26, 2019, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced Ontario Health Teams as a new way of organizing and delivering services to patients;

AND WHEREAS on April 3, 2019, information was released with respect to the guidelines and process for applications for Ontario Health Teams;

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AND WHEREAS Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health has engaged in preliminary discussions with local partners to explore the possibility of Ottawa Public Health (OPH) becoming a partner in Ottawa area-based Ontario Health Teams;

AND WHEREAS the first step in this process is the submission of self-assessments, due to the Ministry by May 15, 2019, and the subsequent step will be for selected groups to be invited to submit their full applications by July 12, 2019, with Ontario Health Teams being announced beginning in the fall of 2019;

AND WHEREAS OPH's potential involvement in Ottawa area-based Ontario Health Teams may result in, as yet undefined, budgetary and/or governance implications for OPH;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit authorize Ottawa's Medical Officer to Health to continue to explore this option, in collaboration with local partners, including the submission of self-assessments by the May 15, 2019 deadline;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Medical Officer of Health report back to the Board of Health, either at the Board's regular meeting of June 17, 2019 or at a Special Meeting, to be called by the Chair as needed, with respect to the outcome and/or with respect to any new information as of the date of said meeting.

The Board then heard from the following public delegations who talked about their partnerships with Ottawa Public Health and the importance of being able to retain that capacity going forward:

- Norah Foster, Certified Credit Counsellor, Resolve Credit and Financial Counselling and member of the Ottawa Gambling Harms Prevention Network;

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- Marie-Josée Trépanier, Chair, Champlain Maternal Newborn Regional Program; and
- Roberto Ortiz, Executive Director, and Brent Bauer, Chair, MAXOttawa.

After hearing the public delegations, Dr. Etches responded to questions from Members of the Board of Health. The Board then voted on motions 4/3 and 4/4 as noted below. The discussion on this item lasted approximately 95 minutes.

Motion 4/3

Moved by Vice-Chair DeGiovanni

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AND WHEREAS there are many unknowns about how and when the Province proposes to implement these changes;

AND WHEREAS the Province is proposing to reduce the number of health units in Ontario from 35 locally-based health units to 10 regionally based health units;

AND WHEREAS local public health is known for its responsiveness to local needs, basing many of its programs and services on local evidence, data, and priorities;

AND WHEREAS the proposed restructuring is likely to result in a loss of local control and local responsiveness of public health programs and services;

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- **Request that the Mayor of Ottawa write to the Province of Ontario to communicate Council's unequivocal support for the work of Ottawa Public Health;**
- **Request the Province maintain the health protection, health promotion, and prevention mandate of Ottawa Public Health;**
- **Request the Province maintain the current 75 percent provincial, 25 percent municipal funding formula for Ottawa Public Health and public health programs in Ontario; and**
- **Request the Province initiate consultations with municipalities and public health agencies on the public health system in Ontario.**

CARRIED

Motion 4/4

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AND WHEREAS on April 3, 2019, information was released with respect to the guidelines and process for applications for Ontario Health Teams;

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CARRIED