

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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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 joining us at our first Board of Health meeting of 2016. To start the meeting, I will briefly reflect on 2015 and look forward to 2016.

Beyond a doubt, 2015 has been a remarkable year for the Board, and OPH.

Numerous accomplishments and milestones come to mind.

In 2015, the Board:

- Developed new Strategic Priorities to guide Ottawa Public Health for the next three years. These priorities aim to build a healthier Ottawa.
- Adopted an immunization strategy that aims to increase the number of children vaccinated.
- Endorsed OPH's five-point plan to provide Ottawa families with the right care, at the right time; and
- The Board also approved an innovative trial project called *OttawaSafe*. The project is a new way to share restaurant inspection results online.

I am now looking forward to working with staff and our Board in 2016 on many new initiatives and project.

So far, January has been a busy month for our Board members and our staff.

OPH continues its efforts to ensure that school-aged children's immunization records are up to date. Since last spring, tens of thousands of phone calls and letters have been sent to parents and guardians. And OPH continues to receive hundreds of communications daily. Since OPH started the notices of suspension on December 15, 2015, over 3800 Ottawa students have been suspended - at least one day from school - because their immunization records were not up-to-date.

This step of suspending students, while not the ideal, has proven to be effective. For the schools that have gone through the full surveillance, the data bases are ninety six percent updated. The last batch of suspensions in elementary schools will be sent tomorrow - with suspensions in high schools to be completed by the end of March.

I understand that OPH staff are working closely with schools and parents and guardians so students may return to school as soon as possible.

I would like to thank staff who are working long hours to respond to questions from parents and update student vaccination records, as part of this *Every Child, Every Year* immunization initiative.

I would like to remind all Ottawa parents and guardians that they can report their child's immunization records to OPH by phone, online, fax, mail or by the [Immunize dot CA app](#).

Last month Vice-Chair Poirier and Councillor Mathieu Fleury attended the OPH Annual All-Staff Meeting. With the theme of "All for Public Health – Public Health for All" the meeting provided an opportunity for staff to hear from community leaders about

community partnership and collaboration. Thank you Vice-Chair Poirier and Member Fleury for representing the Board.

The following day, on January 27, OPH participated in Bell Let's Talk Day. This day seeks to break the silence around mental illness and support mental health all across Canada. As part of this day, OPH staff promoted, on CTV News at Noon, OPH's "Have That Talk" videos. These OPH videos aim to give parents the knowledge and resources needed to talk about mental health with their child or teen.

Looking forward in 2016, the Board and OPH will continue to advance: healthy eating and active living; positive mental health; sexual health services -- for priority populations; and reduce falls for older -- along with many other major projects.

Finally, as the Board is aware, Sherry Nigro, Branch Manager for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, announced -- earlier this month - that she will be retiring in April, after more than 25 years of service to Ottawa's residents and Ottawa Public Health.

Sherry has been an exceptional contributor to public health in Ottawa - advancing the health of our community. Her outstanding ability to work with city partners and other stakeholders has resulted in sound public health policy, programs and services that have benefitted residents of all ages.

Next month, partners, Board members, and staff will be celebrating Sherry's accomplishments at her retirement party. Please join me in collectively wishing her the best as she starts this new chapter in her life and recognizing her many accomplishments over the past 25 years.

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

Thank you.