

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Ottawa Board of Health
Conseil de santé d'Ottawa
14 November 2017 / 14 novembre 2017**

**Submitted on November 13, 2017
Soumis le 13 novembre 2017**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:
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Ward: CITY WIDE / À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE File Number: ACS2017-OPH-BOH-0008

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**OBJET: NOMINATION D'UN MÉDECIN CHEF EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE PAR
INTÉRIM**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve the appointment of Dr. Vera Etches as Acting Medical Officer of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit until such time as Council appoints a new Medical Officer of Health.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa approuve la nomination de la D^r Vera Etches comme médecin chef en santé

publique par intérim jusqu'à ce que le Conseil municipal nomme un nouveau médecin chef en santé publique.

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2017, Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Isra Levy, provided notice of his resignation from the City of Ottawa Health Unit, effective January 8, 2018.

Section 68 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) provides for an Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH) to act under the direction of a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and to have all the powers of a MOH under the HPPA and also requires that AMOH fulfil the role of MOH in situations when the MOH position becomes vacant or the MOH is unable to act. Specifically, the legislations states as follows:

DUTIES OF ASSOCIATE M.O.H.

68 (1) *The associate medical officer of health of a board of health, under the direction of the medical officer of health of the board, shall assist in the performance of the duties of the medical officer of health and, for the purpose, has all the powers of the medical officer of health.*

WHERE M.O.H. ABSENT OR UNABLE TO ACT

(2) *Where the office of medical officer of health of a board of health is vacant or the medical officer of health is absent or unable to act, the associate medical officer of health of the board shall act as and has all the powers of the medical officer of health.*

Further the Board's Delegation of Authority By-law, being By-law 2011-2, provides as follows:

3. (1) *The Medical Officer of Health is authorized to further delegate and to authorize further delegations of any powers, duties function delegated to the Medical Officer of Health by the Ottawa Board of Health under this or any other by-law or resolution to an Associate Medical Officer of Health, Deputy Director, Deputy Medical Officer of Health or Manager of Ottawa Public Health.*
- (2) *Where authority is designated to a specific staff member in this by-law, the authority may be further delegated by the authorized person to staff members within Ottawa Public Health provided that such delegation is authorized in writing and does not exceed the authority delegated by this by-law to the authorized person.*

- (3) *The Ottawa Board of Health, as delegating agent, may impose such terms and conditions upon any delegation as it sees fit and this shall include the power to vary such terms or rescind the delegation in question.*
- (4) *Where delegations have been authorized to a specific staff person, such authority includes the person acting in the specific position where the position has not been formally filled.*

Accordingly, the Board has the authority to appoint an AMOH as Acting Medical Officer of Health for an interim period. There are currently four employees at Ottawa Public Health who are formally appointed as an AMOH for the City of Ottawa Health Unit.

DISCUSSION

The Board of Health has a responsibility to ensure that the City of Ottawa Health Unit moves into the future with a stable organization. This is of particular importance at this time in light of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's ongoing health system transformation process and the recent internal re-alignment undertaken by Ottawa Public Health. Accordingly, a smooth transition between the current Medical Officer of Health and his successor is in the best interest of the organization and will contribute to maintaining stability of operations.

Dr. Vera Etches has been an Associate Medical Officer of Health with the City of Ottawa Health Unit since February 2009 and is currently the longest serving Associate Medical Officer of Health with the City of Ottawa Health Unit. Dr. Vera Etches has also been serving as Ottawa's Deputy Medical Officer of Health since April 2014, a role that has afforded her the opportunity to enhance her leadership and management skills, and she is bilingual. Therefore, her skills, experience and leadership within Ottawa Public Health make Dr. Etches the ideal candidate for serving as Acting Medical Officer of Health on an interim basis.

Dr. Etches' interim appointment will be effective upon Board approval and continue until such time as Council appoints a new Medical Officer of Health, on the Board's recommendation.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

The purpose of this report is administrative in nature and therefore no public consultation is required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

DISPOSITION

Following Board approval, the Board of Health Secretary will notify the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care of this acting appointment.