

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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DATE: October 19, 2015

19 octobre 2015

FILE NUMBER: ACS2015-OPH-BOH-0004

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 on this federal election night to see our Board of Health meeting.

Meeting Dates

As a first item of business, I would like to advise you that some of our upcoming Board of Health meeting dates have changed. These changes are as a result of a recent report to the City's Financial and Economic Development Committee which approved a timetable for the tabling, review and adoption of the City's 2016 budget. In order for the

2016 budget to be received by the Board in advance of Council, the November Board of Health meeting has been moved up to November 9th where the budget report will be tabled. In addition, a special meeting has been called for Monday, December 7th for the Board to deliberate on and approve the budget for Ottawa Public Health (OPH). If you have any questions about the dates, times or locations of the meetings please see me or our Board Secretary, Gillian Connelly, after the meeting.

Mental Health

Next, I would like to share with you Ottawa Public Health's work to move forward on the City and OPH's strategic initiatives regarding mental health and suicide prevention. Mental health affects people of all ages and backgrounds. In Ottawa, over 60 people die as a result of suicide each year. The highest rate for suicide is among middle-aged men, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults aged 15 to 29 in our community. To help address this issue in our community, the City of Ottawa now offers *safeTalk* suicide prevention training to all staff. The City is the first municipality in Canada to offer this training and a number of Board Members have also participated in the training. As well, Member Taylor worked with OPH to host a free screening of the Pixar film *Inside Out*. The film, which was screened this past weekend, provided an opportunity to spark a conversation between parents and children about mental health.

Keep Stittsville Healthy

I am excited to be hosting a public open house forum in my community on October 24th called **Keep Stittsville Healthy**. My office has been working closely with OPH staff Channele Hurlbut and Christine Taylor putting the event together. There is a focus on Mental Health and Parenting among other interest items that have been brought forward by residents. I welcome everyone to please come by, as this is a great opportunity to see the continued engagement by OPH in communities.

Finally, as the Chair of the Ottawa Board of Health, I am looking forward to continuing to work with the city on a number of strategic initiatives which overlap with OPH's strategic directions.