

4. A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING HARMS FROM GAMBLING  
IN OTTAWA

ACS2018-OPH-HPP-0004

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:**

- 1. Approve Ottawa Public Health's collaborative four-point plan to reduce harms from gambling in Ottawa, conditional upon receiving funding outside of the current revenue-sharing agreement, as described in this report;**
- 2. Authorize the Board of Health Chair to make a funding application to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to fund the proposed four-point plan; and**
- 3. Direct that this report be forwarded to Council for information.**

CARRIED, as amended by Motions 22/03 and 22/04

Ms. Gillian Connelly, Manager of Healthy Communities, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation, which served to provide the Board with an overview of the report. A copy of her presentation is held on file with the Board of Health Secretary.

The following delegations addressed the Board on this topic, all in support of the report recommendations:

- Keith Egli, Councillor, Ward 9, Knoxdale-Merivale
- Paul Pellizzari, Executive Director of Social Responsibility, Ontario Lottery and Gaming
- Catherine Bernatchez, YMCA/YWCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program

After hearing from the delegations, Dr. Etches and Ms. Connelly responded to questions from Board members. Discussion on this item lasted approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes, after which the Board voted on two (2) motions (Motions 22/03 and 22/04) and approved the report, as amended by these motions.

At approximately 6:48 p.m., the Board considered Motion 22/02 to extend the meeting time.

**Motion 22/02**

Moved by Member McKenney

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health approve that the meeting time be extended past 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Subsection 8.(1)(c) of the *Procedural By-law*.**

CARRIED

**Motion 22/03**

Moved by Member McKenney

**WHEREAS the increase of gambling opportunities in Ottawa will have negative health and social impacts on some individuals, their families and the broader community; and**

**WHEREAS research shows that increases in gambling availability are associated with a growth in problem gambling; and**

**WHEREAS research shows there is a near 2% prevalence of moderate risk and problem gambling in Ottawa, representing approximately 15,000 residents; and**

**WHEREAS only 541 individuals received gambling addiction treatment in Ottawa in 2016/17; and**

**WHEREAS** the majority of researchers agree certain forms of gambling are more problematic and these types of games include casino game tables and Electronic Gaming Tables (slot machines); and

**WHEREAS** the most effective way to prevent problem gambling is to restrict the access and availability of gambling opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** the Board of Health on August 19, 2013 approved that Ottawa Public Health's position is against increasing access and availability of gambling in Ottawa; and

**WHEREAS** in November 2017, the City of Ottawa's Committee of Adjustment approved an increase in the maximum number of game tables allowed at the RCR site from 21 to 35; an

**WHEREAS** in February 2018 HRCO filed an application to allow a further increase in the number game tables from 35 to 55 and gave notice that they plan to expand the number of Electronic Gaming Tables beyond the current 1250; and

**WHEREAS** the cumulative effects of approvals to increases in the access and availability of gambling are expected to cause significant gambling-related harms within the community;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ottawa Board of Health reiterate its ongoing strong position against increasing access to and availability of gambling in Ottawa.

CARRIED

**Motion 22/04**

Moved by Member Taylor

**That the Discussion section of the report, under Recommendation 2, be amended to replace all references to the ask of the Province for \$150k and \$200k respectively to reflect:**

- **An initial minimum request for \$150,000 one-time or interim funding; and**
- **An initial minimum request for \$200,000 recurring base funding, the amount of such to be increased as OPH data on the scope of this issue grows.**

CARRIED