

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 June Board of Health meeting. As we look back on the spring and ahead to the summer I have a few updates and acknowledgements that I would like to share with you.

Aboriginal Awareness Day

First and foremost, I would like to note that last week our Deputy Mayor proclaimed tomorrow – June 21 – Aboriginal Awareness Day in Ottawa. With that in mind, I would like to begin by honouring the Algonquin people, on whose traditional territory the City of

Ottawa is located. I would like to extend this respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, their elders, their ancestors and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

To honour Aboriginal Awareness Day, the City held an Aboriginal Awareness Day forum last week and was pleased to have Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a keynote speaker. It was excellent to see Ottawa Public Health (OPH) employees in attendance. I know OPH is committed to providing culturally sensitive services and I hope those of you who participated were able to learn from the forum.

Mental Health Week

Looking back to last month, during mental health week, OPH released [The Mental Health Caregiver Guide](#) along with the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Canadian Public Health Association, Military Family Services, and the Mental Illness Caregivers Association (MICA). **The purpose of the guide is to provide a national resource to support caregivers of people of all ages who are living with mental illness or experiencing mental health challenges. I think this comprehensive guide** presents an excellent opportunity to support and recognize the caregivers. The guide will support caregivers in our community in caring for themselves and for others.

Heather Crowe Park Rededication Ceremony

Also in May, Deputy Mayor Taylor, Councillor Leiper and I, along with OPH employees and community partners, celebrated the rededication of Heather Crowe Park. The name Heather Crowe will likely be familiar to many of you. Ms. Crowe was an Ottawa-area waitress and non-smoker, who was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer in 2002 due to workplace second-hand smoke exposure. She was a tireless advocate for smoke-free legislation, travelling across Canada to speak with the public, politicians, hospitality workers, health professionals, and youth to discuss the effects of tobacco use. Heather passed away on May 22, 2006, nine days before the **Smoke-Free Ontario Act** came into effect. I was proud to join the numerous community members, family and friends in attendance to unveil a new memorial plaque in honour of Heather Crowe's contributions to smoke-free public places.

Employee Recognition Month

Looking ahead to this week, I will be joining employees at the Mary Pitt Centre on Thursday to celebrate their success at an employee recognition event. June is

employee recognition month at the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health and there is much for employees to be proud of. What comes to mind for me, as a recent source of pride, is OPH's response to the Rideau Street infrastructure challenges.

As you know, on the morning of Wednesday, June 8, a major road collapse occurred at Rideau Street near Sussex Drive. Immediately following the collapse, the City's Emergency Management Team was activated and began response. Ottawa Public Health has been an important part of that response. I would like to thank Dr. Levy for his efforts and all OPH employees for their work in protecting the health of Ottawa residents by supporting this emergency response.

Last but not least, I would also like to congratulate two OPH employees who were nominated for City Managers Awards. First, I would like to acknowledge Kimberly MacAulay. Kimberly is a Public Health Nurse with the Family and School Health team and was nominated in the category of Emerging Leader. Congratulations Kimberly. Second, I would like to congratulate Nancy Kennedy who manages the OPH Dental Health program. I am pleased to announce that Nancy won the City Manager Award for Excellence in the category of Excellence in Resident Focused Service Delivery. She was nominated for her commitment to providing Ottawa's most vulnerable residents with access to health care, education and preventative tools. In the past year, Nancy has led three major initiatives that have improved access to dental services for the city's most marginalized populations. These initiatives include the establishment of a new dental clinic at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, the implementation of the new integrated Healthy Smiles Ontario Program, and the provision of dental treatment to Syrian refugees.

Please join me in giving Nancy and Kimberly a round of applause.