

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: June 20, 2016

20 juin 2016

FILE NUMBER: ACS2016-OPH-MOH-0005

SUBJECT: **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT**

OBJET : **RAPPORT VERBAL DU MÉDECIN CHEF EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE**

Check upon delivery

Bonsoir, good evening,

I will speak to some of the key things that have been going on at Ottawa Public Health (OPH) since we last met. As you will appreciate, it's been busy as always. I will touch briefly on provincial matters; our Accreditation Canada survey visit, which took place last week; and some local issues. Before I do that though, and given that tomorrow is National Aboriginal Day, I too want to acknowledge and honour the fact that this meeting is being held on traditional Algonquin territory, and to extend this respect to all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

First the Provincial Update

The province continues to be extremely active, and to generate a lot of activity for us.

Over the past month, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care undertook a financial audit of OPH's 2015 accounts. It was completed on time and went very smoothly. No issues for action were identified.

Last month, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services advised all public health units that officials will undertake a third party review of the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program. As you know, many health units - including ours - have expressed concern regarding that program's sustainability. The Ministry indicated that, once the third party consulting team is selected, they will solicit the input of public health units to determine each health unit's unique needs and challenges. I will let you know how that develops.

Also in May (2016), the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care announced the government's intention to introduce legislation requiring physicians to report vaccinations directly to local public health units, as part of their *Immunization 2020* strategy. The Ministry also announced the expansion of its publicly funded immunization program to offer the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to boys as well as girls. This is excellent news - access to this cancer-preventing vaccine will now be increasingly available to more youth in Ottawa. Logistically, implementing these changes is not a trivial matter for our Vaccine team, but I assure you that they are excited by this, and have already begun planning the roll out. And I expect that there will be support from the Ministry to help with any extraordinary costs related to this roll out.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has also asked for our assistance with the development of a provincial list of food service premises. That, as you will recall, relates to the *Healthy Menu Choices Act, 2015*, which will come into effect on January 1, 2017. Operators of food service premises with twenty or more location in Ontario will be required to post the caloric content of menu items. OPH has been actively participating in technical briefings on the *Healthy Menu Choices Act* Regulation and will be providing the ministry with a list of food service premises, which will be used to help with enforcing the Act.

After much speculation and anticipation we also have now seen where the province intends to move with respect to health care system transformation, as they have now introduced the [*Patients First Act*](#). Of note, government heeded the opinion of this board and of alPHA in not moving ahead to have your accountability now be managed by the LHIN. The proposed legislation; however, moves to create a formal relationship

between LHINs and Medical Officers of Health, so the impact of this legislation will not be trivial, and I will be watching closely to assess, and to keep you apprised.

On the tobacco control file, in the last two weeks, Bill 178 passed its third reading and received Royal Assent. Councillor Fleury addressed committee hearings related to this bill, to bring the Board's perspective. The Bill amends the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* to prohibit the smoking of any substance or product prescribed by regulation. It does not address the regulatory gap that you have been concerned about with respect to smoking Hookah pipes and Shisha, and that is why the item is on the agenda for later tonight.

2016 Performance Indicator Targets

Lastly on the provincial front, is the matter of the 2016 Performance Target indicators. At our last meeting we discussed performance results for 2015. The Ministry has now provided us with its expected 2016 performance targets. We will be bringing you a report on performance against these new targets in the fall.

Of note, too, is that the Ministry has also updated and modernized the *Ontario Public Health Standards* and 16 of the associated protocols. Staff are currently assessing the impact of the changes to the protocols on their work.

Accreditation Canada Survey Visit

Shifting gears, I want to report that last week we had a site survey by Accreditation Canada surveyors. This was an extraordinarily detailed and comprehensive review of our programs and operations by sharp eyed peer reviewers. They spent four days with us, interviewed many dozens of our staff, clients and partners, and reviewed thousands of pages of OPH materials. We expect to hear official results in the next few weeks, and of course I will share these with you as soon as I receive them. We will develop our next quality improvement plan with the benefit of those findings. I can tell you that an interim verbal report that was provided to me suggested that the results will be very positive.

Local Update

While staff were welcoming the Accreditation Canada surveyors last week, many of our Public Health Inspectors and other staff were assisting with the reconstruction efforts at the site of the sinkhole on Rideau Street. This work included meeting with many of the business operators and building owners to assist and educate primarily as it pertained to water quality and food safety, and we did need to issue various drinking water advisories to assure that water users were properly protected. Actually as of today, all drinking water advisories have now been lifted.

Chair, prior to concluding I want to also acknowledge the honour of one of our staff receiving the City Manager's award of excellence and to congratulate Nancy Kennedy for her outstanding contributions in putting the needs of residents first by delivering exceptional service to the public.

Merci beaucoup, that concludes my report.