

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

Hello everyone, bonjour à tous.

We have had a very full and eventful summer since we last met in June. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of items.

Appointment of Dr. Monir Taha, Associate Medical Officer of Health

I am pleased to begin today's meeting by welcoming our new Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Monir Taha, to his first meeting of the Board.

Board members will recall that Dr. Taha was selected following a rigorous national recruitment campaign and joined Ottawa Public Health this past July.

With over 20 years of experience working in the public health field in Ontario and New Brunswick, Dr. Taha brings a wealth of expertise to OPH on a variety of public health issues of importance to Ottawa residents.

Most recently, he served as Associate Medical Officer of Health, and Director of Chronic Disease Prevention and Oral Health, with the Halton Region Health Department.

Welcome, Dr. Taha, we are glad to have you with us and wish you success in your new role.

Breastfeeding Week – OPH Facebook Event

Next, I would like to highlight Breastfeeding Week, which was observed over the first week of October.

In celebration, Ottawa Public Health held several virtual events on Facebook, with the aim to promote the importance of breastfeeding for infant nutrition and health.

Parents and soon-to-be parents were invited to engage with Ottawa Public Health nurses and each other on Facebook to talk about a number of important issues around breastfeeding, including:

- Creating supportive environments;
- Promoting the normalization of breastfeeding; and
- Providing support for breastfeeding women.

The online event also aimed to increase awareness of breastfeeding support services, such as the Ottawa Public Health Information Line and Parenting in Ottawa drop-ins, where parents can go to speak with a public health nurse for breastfeeding support. Check out the Parenting in Ottawa website for dates, times, and locations of Parenting in Ottawa Drop-Ins.

Vaccine Display

Next, if you happen to be at the Mary Pitt Centre at 100 Constellation Drive, where Ottawa Public Health's head offices are located, I would encourage you to visit a new exhibit, which explores the fascinating history of vaccinations.

The exhibit is the culmination of hard work and collaboration with a number of community partners.

There will be an official unveiling ceremony with partners in the near future. Board members will be advised of the details as soon as they become available and information will also be shared through Ottawa Public Health's twitter account, @OttawaHealth.

Accreditation

Finally, this past June, Ottawa Public Health achieved an important milestone on its quality improvement journey in receiving accreditation from Accreditation Canada.

Ottawa Public Health was accredited with Exemplary Standing, which is the highest possible level of accreditation. It is given exclusively to organizations that go beyond the requirements of Accreditation Canada, and demonstrate excellence in quality improvement.

Moreover, this remarkable achievement is in recognition of the dedication and hard work of the over 600 Ottawa Public Health employees.

I would like to commend these employees who strive to provide the highest level of service possible to our community each and every day.

That concludes my comments this evening. I would be happy to take any questions from Board members.