

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health
Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

DATE: 2021 March 18

VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE PROGRAM: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

1. Receive Report No. 16-21 re: Vector-Borne Disease Program: Request for Proposal;
2. Approve award of the contract for the Vector Borne Disease Program, *Part A - Larval Mosquito Surveillance & Control*, to Canadian Centre for Mosquito Management (CCMM) Inc. in the amount of \$89,460 (before taxes); and
3. Approve award of the contract for the Vector Borne Disease Program, *Part B - Mosquito Identification and Viral Testing*, to Entomogen Inc. in the amount of \$21,025 (before taxes).

Key Points

- A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to renew two contracts to deliver services for the Vector-Borne Disease program.
- The recommended proposals will not result in a net change in the Vector-Borne Disease budget cost over the previous RFP (\$1,265 increase for Part A and \$1,641 annual decrease for Part B).

Background

The Vector Borne Disease (VBD) Team delivers a surveillance and control program to monitor West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Zika Virus (ZV) and Lyme disease (LD) activity in Middlesex London. This program is made up of the following components: mosquito larval surveillance, larviciding, adult mosquito trapping, human surveillance, responding to public inquiries, public education, and active and passive tick surveillance. The tasks of larval mosquito surveillance and control, along with mosquito identification and viral testing, are performed by contracted agencies on behalf of MLHU.

In January 2018, the Board of Health (BOH) approved the award of the contract for Larval Mosquito Surveillance & Control (Part A) to G.D.G. Canada in the amount of \$88,195. In addition, the BOH also approved award of the contract for Mosquito Identification and Viral Testing (Part B), to G.D.G Canada in the amount of \$22,666.25. The length of these contracts was two years.

These activities were completed in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) West Nile Virus Preparedness and Prevention Plan for Ontario, and Regulation 199/03 (Control of West Nile Virus) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Request for Proposal

On February 2nd, 2021, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for both Larval Mosquito Surveillance and Control (Part A), and Mosquito Identification and Viral testing (Part B). Notice of the procurement opportunity was provided to known service providers.

Bidders had the option of bidding on Part A, Part B, or both Parts A and B. The RFP closed on March 3rd, 2021 and four submissions were received. Two proponents bid on Part A, and two proponents bid on Part B.

An evaluation committee consisting of members from the Safe Water, Rabies Prevention and Control, and Vector Borne Disease Team and the Procurement Team evaluated all bids using a predetermined set of evaluation criteria. These criteria included personnel, experience, qualification, methodology, cost, timelines, reports, products, software programs, resources, and value added benefits. Scoring for the RFP is included in [Appendix A](#).

For Part A, the evaluation committee recommends the contract be awarded to the Canadian Centre for Mosquito Management (CCMM) in the amount of \$89,460 (exclusive of HST). This firm provided the lowest bid for Part A. This represents an increase of \$1,265 over the previous contract. CCMM partnered with Pestalto to bid on this RFP and have long histories of providing mosquito control services for the management of West Nile virus in Ontario. In 2020, these companies provided mosquito control services to the City of Toronto, the Durham Region Health Department, the Regional Municipality of York, Southwestern Public Health, Chatham-Kent Public Health Services, Windsor-Essex County Healthy, the Regional Municipality of Peel, the City of Hamilton, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and the Regional Municipality of Halton, among others. In addition, CCMM also provided lead services for mosquito surveillance and control to the MLHU in the past (2010-12 and 2013-15).

For Part B, the evaluation committee recommends the contract be awarded to Entomogen Inc. in the amount of \$21,025 (excluding HST). This represents a decrease of \$1641 over the previous contract. Entomogen Inc. has been involved with mosquito identification and viral testing in the province of Ontario since the inception of the program in 2001. They have worked closely with most public health units for diagnostic testing of West Nile Virus including Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services, and North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

Both contracts were issued for a (2) two-year term with the Health Unit having sole discretion for an optional third year. If the extension option is exercised, a 2% increase would be issued for Part A. Costs would not increase if the extension was issued for Part B. The contracts will stipulate that future years' services will be contingent upon staff receiving funding approvals for the program.

Next Steps

As a result of the Request for Proposal process undertaken, Health Unit staff are recommending that the Board of Health award contracts to CCMM Inc. in the amount of \$89,460 (Part A) and Entomogen Inc. in the amount of \$21,025 (Part B).

This report was prepared by the Safe Water, Rabies Prevention and Control, and Vector Borne Disease team, Environmental Health and Infectious Disease Division and the Procurement and Operations Team, Healthy Organization Division.



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