



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 December 12

BUILDING THE BEST BOARD: A GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health support the development of a draft Terms of Reference for a Governance Committee to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Key Points

- The Board of Health has specific requirements regarding board member recruitment, orientation, training, and evaluation under the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards. A Governance Committee could be useful in supporting the Board to comply with these requirements.

Background

Board members will recall receiving [Report No. 113-13](#) “Summary of the Research on Local Boards of Health” at the October 2013 meeting. This report detailed the importance and characteristics of a strong Board of Health, including the importance of (a) adequately orienting new board members, (b) providing ongoing board member training, (c) regularly evaluating board effectiveness, and (d) using subcommittees to enhance board member understanding of the organization and support improved decision-making.

A Development and Evaluation Subcommittee

In addition to being general principles of good governance, the Board of Health has specific requirements under the [Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards](#) regarding board member recruitment (Standard 2.10), board member orientation and training (Standard 4.2), and board self-evaluation (Standard 4.3). In effort to support the Board comply with these requirements, staff recommend the Board of Health develop a **Governance Committee** that would be responsible for:

- Recruiting and nominating suitable Board members,
- Overseeing orientation and training programs for Board members,
- Evaluating the performance of individual members and the Board as a whole,
- Developing and proposing governance policies and changes to the bylaws for consideration by the Board of Health, and
- Ensuring compliance with the related Organizational Standards.

Similar to the Finance and Facilities Committee, a Governance Committee could consist of five voting members from the Board of Health, plus the Secretary-Treasurer as an ex-officio member and support from staff.

Next Steps

Upon endorsement of this recommendation, staff can develop a draft Terms of Reference to be reviewed at a future meeting. At that time, the Board of Health can appoint members of the subcommittee and select a first meeting date.

This report was prepared by Mr. Ross Graham, Manager of Strategic Projects.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie', is positioned above the printed name.

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Medical Officer of Health