



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 March 26

FOODNET CANADA – MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee make the following recommendations to the Board of Health:

- 1) That the Board Chair sign the Memorandum of Agreement as attached to Report No. 016-14FFC, and further*
- 2) That the 2014 operating budget be revised to include the 100% funding for the FoodNet Canada program of \$159,383 as outlined in Table 1 of Report No. 016-14FFC*

Key Points

- At the February 26th Board of Health meeting, the Board agreed to participate in the FoodNet Canada program as the sentinel site in Ontario. This recognizes the Health Unit as a leader in infectious disease surveillance and case and outbreak management.
- Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), FoodNet Canada is an enhanced integrated surveillance program for food- and water-borne illnesses, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, listeria and salmonella.
- The program is being funded for a three-year term at an estimated amount of \$473,433.

Background

At the February 26th Board of Health meeting, the Board reviewed [Report No. 17-14](#) “Health Unit Participation in FoodNet Canada” and agreed to participate as the Ontario sentinel site in FoodNet Canada.

Funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), FoodNet Canada is an enhanced integrated surveillance program for food- and water-borne illnesses, such as *E. coli* O157:H7, listeria and salmonella.

As the Ontario sentinel site, PHAC would provide the Health Unit with additional funding to carry out the enhanced case investigation and retail sampling components of the FoodNet Canada program. This funding would support the hiring of a 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Site Coordinator position to be filled either by a Public Health Inspector (PHI), a Public Health Nurse, or an Epidemiologist, and 0.2 FTE PHI to conduct weekly sampling in grocery stores.

Memorandum of Agreement

Attached as [Appendix A](#) is the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that the Board of Health would be required to sign to take part in this initiative. Table 1 on the back of this page provides a summary of the budget for each of the three years. The full budget is outlined in [Appendix B](#).

Table 1 – FoodNet Budget

Description	Year		
	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
<i>Site Coordinator:</i>			
Wages & Benefits	\$ 110,000	\$ 113,300	\$ 116,699
Start-up costs	5,000	-	-
Office Expenses	4,000	4,000	4,000
Administrative Expenses	3,000	3,000	3,000
Training	2,500	2,500	2,500
Total Site Coordinator	\$ 124,500	\$ 122,800	\$ 126,199
<i>Retail Sampling:</i>			
Wages & Benefits	\$ 14,383	\$ 14,804	\$ 15,248
Start-up costs	3,000	-	-
Retail sample purchases	10,000	10,000	10,000
Travel	7,500	7,500	7,500
Total Retail Sampling	\$ 34,883	\$ 32,304	\$ 32,748
Total FoodNet budget	\$ 159,383	\$ 155,104	\$ 158,947

This program and the associated funding were not included in the Infectious Disease Control Planning & Budget Template. Therefore, it is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Health to have the Board Chair sign the Memorandum of Agreement and increase the 2014 operating budget accordingly.

This report was prepared by Mr. John Millson, Director of Finance & Operations, Ms. Alison Locker - Epidemiologist, Oral Health Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services, and Mr. Tristan Squire-Smith, Manager, Infectious Disease Control Team.



Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health