



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2016 April 21

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## 2016 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### ***Recommendation***

*It is recommended that:*

- 1) The Governance Committee receive the findings of the 2016 Board Self-Assessment as outlined in Report No. 009-15GC re: 2016 Board of Health Self-Assessment Results, and further that;*
- 2) The Governance Committee direct staff to incorporate the survey results into Board development activity planning for 2016.*

### **Key Points**

- The findings of the self-assessment indicate that for most areas of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards, a strong majority of members strongly agree or agree that the Board is achieving its intended outcomes.
- This year's self-assessment asked members to prioritize areas that they felt were most important for the board to focus on.

### **Background**

The Board of Health Self-Assessment Survey provides an opportunity for the members of the Board of Health to assess whether they are following good governance practices and meeting outcomes as outlined in Requirement 4.3 of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards.

Distribution of the tool was discussed at the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Governance Committee meeting with amendments being made to the scoring scale. The survey was distributed to the Board of Health in February for completion before March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Self-Assessment Results**

The survey was completed by 10 out of 11 Board members. Detailed results are attached in [Appendix A](#). Generally, findings of the 2016 survey are consistent with findings from 2015. In all areas of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards, Board Members agreed or strongly agreed to all questions with the exception of the following ratings and comments:

Regarding Question 1 - "Is the Board of Health structured properly".

- One Board member disagreed and commented that "There should always be one more public appointee than municipal."

Regarding Question 6 - "In the past year, has the Board of Health adequately responded to serious complaints of wrongdoing or irregularities".

- One member commented “I don’t know.”

Other comments on overall Board effectiveness included:

- One Board member felt they were receiving detailed information on the budget and process.
- One Board member commented that the Medical Officer of Health / Chief Executive Officer is instrumental in stick-handling issues and getting ahead of an issue by presenting to the Board the issue with a solution.

Comments regarding the most important things for Board discussion and action included:

- Having the annual Board retreat is mandatory.
- Engaging in more generative discussions.

### **Priorities for 2016**

An addition to the 2016 Board of Health Self-Assessment included a priority question that asked Board members to rank the most important things that the Board should focus on to improve performance. The top three areas were:

- Learning opportunities for current best practices in public health and governance.
- Ensuring all relevant information is taken into consideration when making decisions.
- Accomplishing our strategic outcomes in our strategic plan.

### **Next Steps**

Members of the Governance Committee have the opportunity to review the findings of the survey and propose “recommendations for improvements in board effectiveness and engagement” as stated in requirement 4.3 of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards and present these recommendations to the Board as a whole.

This report was prepared by Mr. Jordan Banninga, Manager, Strategic Projects.



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