



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

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BOARD OF HEALTH ORIENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that Board of Health orientation practices be enhanced with opportunistic exposure to Health Unit programs in operation.

Key Points

- The 2015 Board of Health-approved Board orientation practices are proposed to be enhanced with opportunistic exposure to Health Unit programs in operation.
- There is a need to discuss Board of Health development plans in light of the results from the 2016 Board of Health Self-Assessment.

Background

At the April 16, 2015 Governance Committee meeting, members reviewed the orientation plan for new Board of Health members which consists of required training components (AODA), an online self-paced module and an on-site orientation. Additionally, the Governance Committee is responsible for setting parameters on Board of Health development activities, which may be informed by the Board of Health Self-Assessment results. Last year's development activities consisted of a "Crucial Elements of Board Governance" session delivered by Mr. Graham Scott.

Board of Health Orientation

New Board of Health members are to be appointed by the province in the coming months. It is incumbent upon the Governance Committee to ensure that these new members have sufficient orientation to assume their position on the Board of Health.

Health Unit staff will continue with orientation practices established in 2015, and propose to enhance this process with opportunistic exposure to programs in operation over the course of their first year on the Board of Health. The opportunity to experience Health Unit programs while in operation is intended to provide a more meaningful understanding of their impact.

Orientation, while recommended for new Board of Health members, is also open to all Board of Health members should they choose to attend. For further details on the Board of Health orientation, refer to [Report No. 07-15GC](#).

Board of Health Development

The Board of Health Self-Assessment asked members to prioritize 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 the strategic outcomes outlined in our strategic plan.

These areas could be of interest to the Governance Committee to focus on for development activities. Options available include workshops, speakers and discussion sessions. Full results of the 2016 Board of Health Self-Assessment can be found in [Report No. 07-16GC](#).

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



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