



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

DATE: 2016 June 16

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## A FOOD POLICY COUNCIL FOR MIDDLESEX-LONDON

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that the Board of Health:*

- 1. Receive Report No. 043-16, A Food Policy Council for Middlesex- London.*
- 2. Appoint a Board of Health representative to the Middlesex- London Food Policy Council.*

### **Key Points**

- The Middlesex-London Food Policy Council (MLFPC) will include a voting member position for a Board of Health representative.
- As a result of the 2015 PBMA investment, a health unit Registered Dietitian will provide coordination support to the MLFPC.
- On June 16, 2016, a community event will announce the Middlesex London Community Food Assessment results and a call to action for applications to the MLFPC.

### **Background**

Building a healthy local food system is an essential component of a vibrant and healthy community. In September, 2015, the report, [No. 52-15 Working Towards the Vision of a Healthy and Sustainable Local Food System](#), described progress to date of the momentum towards a healthier, local food system and plans for a Community Food Assessment. Since that report, the Middlesex-London Community Food Assessment (MLCFA) has been completed and a food policy council is within reach.

### **Middlesex- London Community Food Assessment**

The MLCFA includes a comprehensive understanding of the local food system, based on a review of existing resources and assets, 30 stakeholder interviews, 756 community survey responses, community asset mapping and priority setting sessions. The report, completed in March, 2016, provides several recommendations for strengthening our local food system. These will be released at a community event on June 16, 2016.

### **Middlesex- London Food Policy Council**

On May 5, 2016, at a stakeholder forum, initial terms of reference were developed for the MLFPC. A health unit Registered Dietitian will provide .25 FTE coordination and administrative support to the MLFPC as a non-voting member. This was made possible by the 2015 PBMA investment of 0.5 FTE Registered Dietitian to increase the health unit's capacity to address the environmental, economic, social and nutritional factors connected to the increasing number of local food-related problems. The Board of Health will have one position on the MLFPC as a voting member. The Board of Health is asked to choose a representative for the MLFPC.

On June 16, 2016, a community event will announce a call to action for membership applications to the MLFPC. The intention is to have a MLFPC in place by Fall, 2016. A food policy council will place Middlesex-London in a much stronger position to coordinate action on innovative food system policies that will empower this region to make local food system decisions.

Appendices with more details will be available at the June 16, 2016 Board of Health meeting.

This report was prepared by Ms. Ellen Lakusiak and Ms. Linda Stobo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention & Tobacco Control Team.



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

<p><b>This report addresses</b> the following requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards (2015): Foundational Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10; 11 Chronic Disease Prevention 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12</p>
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