



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health  
FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health  
DATE: 2016 July 21

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## RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME STANDARDS

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that Report No. 047-16 re “Residential Care Home Standards” be received for information.*

### **Key Points**

- The City of London business licensing bylaw will soon be amended to include several new types of business classifications.
- Group Homes are a new classification of business to be included in the bylaw, which will require public health inspection for initial licensing approval as well as for ongoing monitoring.
- The amended bylaw along with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be presented to the City’s Community and Protective Services Committee on July 19, 2016.

### **Background**

Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) in Environmental Health currently inspect between 50 and 70 group homes that receive supports from government agencies including the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. These inspections focus on food safety, cleanliness and sanitation as well as a variety of items that enable the residents to live in a safe environment. This workload currently consumes less than 0.1 FTE of resources. Private or non-profit service operators of group homes in the city of London that are not receiving government supports are not required to meet the same standards. Many of these homes have been classified as lodging homes and the care provisions at these facilities have not been regulated.

The proposed revisions to the bylaw will ensure that private or non-profit group home operators receive proper licensing approvals and comply with SOPs. The SOPs will address issues related to food safety, nutrition, building and fire standards as well as a variety of other care provisions. It is anticipated that Environmental Health PHIs from Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) will begin assisting the City of London in licensing and inspecting group homes operated by private or non-profit service operators. The Environmental Health PHIs have a well-established and effective working partnership with the City of London licensing department, particularly with new food premises. It is anticipated that a similar practice could be followed for the new classification of group home.

### **Conclusion/Next Steps**

The impact on MLHU resources is difficult to determine at this time as many of the details along with a final inventory of homes has yet to be established. City of London bylaw estimates that there are approximately 12 such residences that could fit this new classification. Annual licensing inspections are anticipated to take approximately 2 hours each. This would add about 24 hours of staff time per year which can be absorbed within the current Public Health Inspector caseload. However, re-inspections associated with infractions would add to this demand. Staff will continue to work with the City of London to monitor demand on MLHU resources and will report back to the Board of Health once it is more concretely determined.

This report was prepared by David Pavletic, Manager - Food Safety & Healthy Environments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie'.

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