



TO: Chair and Members of the Finance & Facilities Committee

FROM: Dr. Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2017 September 7

CANADA HEALTH INFOWAY INC. AGREEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance & Facilities Committee:

- 1) *Receive Report No. 031-17FFC for information; and*
- 2) *Request that the Board of Health authorize the Chair to sign the funding agreement ([Appendix A](#)) between the Middlesex-London Health Unit and Canada Health Infoway Inc.*

Key Points

- Canada Health Infoway Inc. is providing funding to health units in Ontario to enable the adoption of technologies that enhance the electronic submission and retrieval of immunization information.
- This funding will be used by the Middlesex-London Health Unit to adopt the PHIX and ICON initiatives, which will facilitate the reporting of immunization information to the Health Unit by Health Care Providers, and the submission and retrieval of immunization information by parents and individuals.

Background

Canada Health Infoway Inc. (CHI) is a not-for-profit corporation funded by the Government of Canada to foster and accelerate the development and adoption of electronic health information systems, common standards, and health surveillance and telehealth technologies, which are compatible and interoperable on a pan-Canadian basis.

CHI provides funding to health units to enable adoption of three components supporting the electronic submission of immunization information:

- PHIX (Public Health Information Exchange) enables Health Care Providers (HCPs) to submit immunization information securely for school-age patients via a link on the Health Unit's website. Recent changes to legislation, which will require doctors and other healthcare providers to report vaccines they administer to school-age populations directly to their local public health unit, will support this process.
- ICON (Immunization Connect Ontario) is a user-friendly website tool allowing the public to access the provincial Digital Health Immunization Repository (DHIR) securely to report immunizations and look up their immunization records.
- m-IMMs is a mobile platform that allows health units to use iPads to record immunizations when administered in schools or community settings.

Funding for the Middlesex-London Health Unit

The Middlesex-London Health Unit is eligible for up to \$64,000 in CHI funding to support adoption of the above three initiatives. Expenses eligible for CHI funding include employee salaries, occupancy, contractor fees and iPads (if adopting m-IMMS), if directly associated with implementation. At this time, MLHU will focus on implementing PHIX and ICON, and will investigate the feasibility of using m-IMMs at a later date.

The agreement requires of recipients an equal contribution of in-kind expenditures. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has already incurred these expenditures in developing ICON, PHIX and m-IMMs. The Ministry has furnished the Health Unit with a letter stating that they have satisfactorily provided the required in-kind contribution.

Summary

Adoption of PHIX and ICON will facilitate the transmission of immunization information from HCPs to health units, and will improve health equity by standardizing the approach to public immunization record reporting and access across the province.

This report was prepared by the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Team, Environmental Health Infectious Diseases Division.



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