

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2018 March 1

VECTOR BORNE DISEASE PROGRAM: CONTRACT AWARD

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

1. *Receive Report No. 010-18FFC re: “Vector Borne Disease Program”;*
2. *Approve award of the contract for the Vector Borne Disease Program, Part A – Larval Mosquito Surveillance and Control, to G.D.G. Canada in the amount of \$88,195 (before taxes); and*
3. *Approve award of the contract for the Vector Borne Disease Program, Part B – Mosquito Identification and Viral Testing, to G.D.G. Canada in the amount of \$22,666.25 (before taxes).*

Key Points

- A request for proposal (RFP) was issued to renew two contracts to deliver services for the Vector Borne Disease Program.
- The recommended proposals will result in an increased delivery cost from the expiring contract (a \$4,537.55 increase for Part A and a \$586.25 increase for Part B, over the contract’s two-year term).

Background

The Vector Borne Disease (VBD) Team delivers a surveillance-and-control program to monitor West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Zika Virus (ZV), and Lyme disease (LD) activity in Middlesex-London. This program is made up of the following components: mosquito larval surveillance, larviciding, adult mosquito trapping, human surveillance, responding to public inquiries, public education, and active and passive tick surveillance. The tasks of larval mosquito surveillance and control, along with mosquito identification and viral testing, are performed by contracted agencies on behalf of MLHU.

In 2017, the VBD Team assumed responsibility for all standing-water surveillance and larviciding, which resulted in a \$32,985.45 savings compared with the previous contract term. The responsibility for applying larvicide to catch basins, however, remains with the contractor.

As a result of WNV activity in Middlesex-London in 2017, and ZV vectors identified in southwestern Ontario, the Health Unit will continue to perform surveillance and larviciding activities to control WNV in mosquito populations in Middlesex-London for 2018–19. This activity will be carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s West Nile Virus Preparedness and Prevention Plan for Ontario and Regulation 199/03 (Control of West Nile Virus) of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Request for Proposals

On November 13, 2017, MLHU issued a request for proposals (RFP) for both larval mosquito surveillance and control (Part A) and mosquito identification and viral testing (Part B). Notice of the procurement opportunity was provided to six known service providers and advertised on the Health Unit's website.

Bidders had the option of bidding on Part A, Part B, or both. The RFP closed on November 27, 2017. Four submissions were received. Two proponents bid on Part A, one bid on Part B, and one bid on both parts.

An evaluation committee consisting of members from the Safe Water, Rabies Prevention and Control, and Vector Borne Disease Team and the Procurement and Operations Team evaluated all bids using a predetermined set of evaluation criteria. These criteria included personnel, experience, qualifications, methodology, cost, timelines, reports, products, software programs, resources, and value-added benefits. Further details on RFP scoring are available upon request.

For Part A, the evaluation committee recommends that the contract be awarded to G.D.G. Canada in the amount of \$88,195 (excluding HST). This firm provided the highest acceptable scoring for Part A. This amount represents an increase of \$4,537.55 from the previous contract.

For Part B, the evaluation committee recommends that the contract be awarded to G.D.G. Canada in the amount of \$22,66.25 (excluding HST). This was the only bid that met the RFP requirements. This amount represents an increase of \$586.25 from the previous contract.

Both contracts are for a two-year period, with the Health Unit having sole discretion for an optional third year. If the extension option is exercised, then there will be no additional increase for Part A. For Part B, however, there will be a 3% increase in the contract price for the third year, if the extension for those services is exercised. The contracts will stipulate that future-year services will be contingent upon staff receiving funding approvals for the program.

Conclusion / Next Steps

As a result of the RFP process, staff recommend that the Board of Health award both contracts to G.D.G. Canada in the amounts of \$88,195 (Part A) and \$22,666.25 (Part B).

This report was prepared by the Safe Water, Rabies Prevention and Control, and Vector Borne Disease Team, Environmental Health and Infectious Disease Division, and the Procurement and Operations Team, Corporate Services Division.



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