

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2018 May 17

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT – MAY 2018

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that Report No. 028-18 re: “Summary Information Report for May 2018” be received for information.*

### **Key Points**

- On March 21, 2018, Western University, in partnership with the Health Unit, joined forces with fifteen other post-secondary campuses across Canada to participate in the 1Day Stand event against commercial tobacco products. The event, held at Western University was used to announce the university’s plan to transition to a 100% smoke-free campus.
- Health Canada recently concluded consultations on proposed front-of-package (FoP) food labelling to gather feedback from health agencies, consumers, and other stakeholders on the proposed graphics under consideration via an online survey.
- Health Unit staff, together with the new Southwestern Health Unit, are working collaboratively with the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and the London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB) to create partnership declarations outlining a shared commitment to healthy school environments that will contribute to the well-being of students.
- Health Unit staff prepared and submitted feedback to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport consultation on potential regulations for *Rowan’s Law (Concussion Safety)*, 2018.

### **The Health Unit Supports Western University in its Transition to a Smoke-Free Campus**

The [1Day Stand](#) is an initiative led by Leave the Pack Behind and other public health partners that calls upon Ontario post-secondary institutions to adopt a tobacco-free campus policy and to take a stand against the commercial tobacco industry. [Western University](#) recently announced its commitment to creating a healthier, cleaner environment for all by going 100% smoke-free by the summer of 2019. Currently, smoking and vaping is prohibited within ten metres of any campus building, and the campus has a series of “clear air corridors” or walking routes where smoking and vaping is also prohibited. On July 1, 2018, Western becomes a smoke-free and vape-free campus, with the exception of a limited number of designated smoking areas on campus. Effective July 1, 2019, the designated smoking areas will be removed, and Western will become 100% smoke-free and vape-free. On March 21, 2018, Western hosted a 1Day Stand event to educate the campus community about the benefits of a smoke-free policy, and to engage staff, faculty, and students in dialogue about their plans to transition to a smoke-free campus. The 1Day Stand event was planned in collaboration with Health Unit staff and Western representatives, including members of the Western’s Smoking Advisory Committee, faculty and student representatives from the Master of Public Health Program, and the University Student Council Health Promotion Coordinators. The event consisted of two information booths that targeted faculty, staff, and students, and a town-hall session that was live-streamed online. The town-hall session consisted of an expert panel of individuals who answered questions related to the policy.

Event feedback will be collated and used to identify areas of focus to support and inform policy implementation. Currently, Health Unit staff are working with Western to offer cessation support services (e.g., the STOP program) for faculty and staff members interested in quitting. The Health Unit will continue to provide support to Western throughout its policy implementation process to ensure that staff, faculty, and students have access to resources both on and off campus.

### **Proposed Graphics for Health Canada's Front-of-Package Food Labelling Under Review**

The Middlesex-London Health Unit, as an endorsing agency of the [Marketing to Kids \(M2K\) Coalition](#), agrees with Health Canada's mandatory approach to the regulation of front-of-package (FoP) nutrition labelling to help support consumers' ability to make the healthiest choices possible when shopping for packaged foods in Canadian stores. Health Canada is proposing a nutrition symbol for the front of food packages to help quickly identify foods that are high in saturated fat, sugars, and/or sodium.

Frequently eating foods high in saturated fat, sugars, or sodium can lead to increased health risks, including obesity, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Mandatory front-of-package labelling for foods high in one or more of these ingredients could: provide quick and easy guidance to help consumers make informed choices about packaged foods; help to improve the nutritional quality of packaged foods; and help health professionals educate consumers. The four symbols under consideration for FoP labelling are attached as [Appendix A](#). The consultation closed April 26, 2018. The Health Unit's summary of recommendations to Health Canada are attached as [Appendix B](#).

### **School Board Partnerships**

In 2017, the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) recommended that district school boards (DSBs) and public health units (PHUs) create a partnership declaration outlining a shared commitment to creating and sustaining healthy school environments and communities that contribute to the well-being of children and youth. Included in the recommendation were guidelines to advance the creation of the Partnership Declaration. MLHU and the Southwestern Health Unit both serve the same school board partners and thus decided to work collaboratively to create two Partnership Declarations: one with the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB); and another with the London District Catholic School Board (LDCSB).

For both school boards, a Declaration Committee has been created and members have been working to finalize a Partnership Declaration. This declaration is different from the TVDSB Program Access Agreement in that the declaration does not cover legal aspects of the partnership or specific programs and services. The Partnership Declaration sets out why and how we work collaboratively to reach one common goal: the well-being of children and youth. Declaration committee membership includes representation from PHU managers, dietitians, and health inspectors, and DSB superintendents, principals, learning supervisors, and learning coordinators. Example terms and expectations outlined in the Declaration include strategies for enhanced collaborative planning, opportunities for sharing data, and joint assessment of the need for public health services and resources in schools. The intention is to share the Partnership Declaration with the Board of Health once completed, and obtain Board endorsement. The goal of the new OPHS School Health Standard is to achieve optimal health of school-age children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools. The Partnership Declaration is an important step in helping community institutions to meet their required public health outcomes.

### **Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018 – Feedback on potential regulations**

On March 7, 2018, Ontario enacted new legislation, [Rowan's Law \(Concussion Safety\), 2018](#), named after Rowan Stringer, a 17-year old who died as the result of a head injury sustained while playing high school rugby. The new legislation aims to protect amateur athletes by improving concussion safety with a focus on

prevention, detection and management. *Rowan's Law (Concussion Safety), 2018* proclaims an annual Rowan's Law Day, and will establish mandatory requirements for sport with focus on concussion awareness, removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocols, and establishment of concussion codes of conduct. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport recently issued a consultation paper seeking feedback on potential regulations: [Consultation - Potential Regulations for Rowan's Law \(Concussion Safety\), 2018](#), attached as [Appendix C](#). Results of the consultation will be used to draft the regulations. Health Unit staff prepared and submitted feedback attached as [Appendix D](#), expressing support as well as suggestions to broaden and strengthen regulations.



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