

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2018 June 21

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT – JUNE 2018

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that Report No. 039-18 re: “Summary Information Report – June 2018” be received for information.*

### **Key Points**

- The dental clinic partnership between MLHU and the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) is now in operation, providing dental treatment options for Indigenous people. The clinic opened on May 1, 2018. MLHU will continue to support SOAHAC until they transition to their new location on Dundas Street, anticipated in summer of 2019.
- The London Community Dental Alliance (LCDA) is a group of London agencies that have come together to increase access to dental treatment services for low-income adults in London. MLHU will provide support and guidance during the establishment of this dental treatment clinic as well.

### **MLHU and Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) Partnership to Provide New Dental Treatment Options for Indigenous Communities**

In December 2017, MLHU adjusted its oral health programs to focus on preventive services. With dental treatment space and equipment available, MLHU approached SOAHAC to gauge their interest in establishing their own dental clinic. In early 2018, MLHU and SOAHAC established a partnership to enable SOAHAC to provide culturally safe dental treatment services to their clients.

Staff from MLHU and SOAHAC, the media, and community members gathered for the official launch of the SOAHAC Dental Clinic, which opened and began treating clients on May 1, 2018. MLHU continues to support SOAHAC in developing their clinical processes, and creating policy and procedures. So far, SOAHAC clients have expressed satisfaction with the clinical environment and the care they have received. Awareness of the dental clinic is growing among Indigenous communities. MLHU and SOAHAC staff were interviewed on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) to highlight the need in the community and to promote the clinic.

### **Collaboration to Provide Dental Treatment Services for Low-income Adults in London**

The Local Community Dental Alliance (LCDA) is a group of London agencies—including Western University, Fanshawe College, London Intercommunity Health Centre, Glen Cairn Resource Centre, and others—that have come together to increase access to dental treatment services for low-income adults in London. The project was initiated by Dr. Kenneth Wright, founder of the Dental Outreach Community Service program at Western University. The LCDA applied for several grants to secure funding for the proposed dental clinic. In this regard, the LCDA made a presentation to the London Community Foundation and was selected to move forward in the interview process. So far, the LCDA has secured a clinic location (Glen Cairn Resource Centre); raised approximately \$300,000 in capital costs to establish the clinic; secured approximately \$290,000 annually to fund clinic operations; and developed policies and guidelines for the

clinic's ongoing operations. MLHU supports the LCDA's objectives, and has agreed to participate as a member on a committee to provide support and guidance.

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

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