

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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## LETTER FROM COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 041-18 re: “Letter from County of Middlesex” for information.*

### **Key Points**

- The Warden of Middlesex County has written to the Board of Health Chair with a number of questions and requests related to location issues (see [Appendix A](#)).
- The letter expressed County Council’s interest in the work to establish Supervised Consumption services in London, which is welcomed. It contained a request to attend County Council, which seems to be based on the assumption that MLHU is seeking to acquire real property, which is not the case.
- Several questions in the letter pertained to the MLHU location project, and have been answered previously in various fora. Staff will identify an appropriate route to provide a full, consolidated set of responses.

### **Summary of Letter and Related Additional Facts**

Following the Middlesex County Council meeting of June 12, a letter from the Warden was received by the Board of Health Chair with a number of questions and requests related to location issues. MLHU welcomes any opportunity to have a constructive dialogue with County Council, and will ensure that the related questions and requests are answered and fulfilled as appropriate.

There are three components to the letter:

1. A request to attend County Council to discuss the County’s consent for a new acquisition of property by MLHU for the purposes of operating a supervised consumption facility.
  - a. County Council’s interest in the work to establish supervised consumption services in London is welcomed. Staff will identify appropriate opportunities to ensure that County Council has accurate information about this work, including an offer to tour the Temporary Overdose Prevention Site.
  - b. MLHU is not seeking to acquire or hold real any new property at this time. If any property is to be acquired for supervised consumption facilities, this would be done by Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC).
2. A question about how MLHU’s relocation-related costs will impact the County’s Annual Repayment Limit. This refers to the amount of debt carried by the County, and recognizes that debt acquired by MLHU would be reflected in the financial statements of the County.
  - a. MLHU’s negotiation of an excellent lease arrangement and careful accumulation of reserve funds over the past several years means that there should be minimal impact of the relocation on the County’s Annual Repayment Limit. The tenant allowance provided in the

- lease agreement plus the related MLHU reserve funds will cover the majority of the relocation-related costs.
- b. For all such costs, MLHU has applied for a Community Health Capital Program (“CHCP”) grant from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Obtaining such funds would negate the need for some of the related reserve funds, and in such circumstances, MLHU could potentially release related reserve funds to the benefit of municipal funders.
  - c. If CHCP grant funds are not obtained, the County’s portion of any debt would likely be less than \$500,000.00. MLHU would plan to pay down this debt within five to ten years.
  - d. Support from the County to advocate to the new government to acquire a CHCP grant would be welcome, and would help minimize the likelihood of an impact on the County’s Annual Repayment Limit.
3. A request for answers to questions posed by the County CAO on April 9<sup>th</sup> in the context of the Superior Court Application.
    - a. These responses were previously provided in emails, meetings, MLHU’s presentations to County Council, and materials submitted as part of the MOH/CEO’s second affidavit to the Superior Court. Staff will identify appropriate routes to provide a full, consolidated set of responses.

## Next Steps

The relationship between MLHU and Middlesex County Council is of significant importance. MLHU will aim to use this opportunity to demonstrate the organization’s commitment to respecting and honouring municipal partners, providing excellent public health service, and leading in sound, competent, and innovative public sector administration.

This report was prepared by the Office of the Medical Officer of Health.



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Medical Officer of Health / CEO