



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2018 December 12

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT – DECEMBER 2018

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 077-18 re: “Summary Information Report – December 2018” be received for information.

Key Points

- MLHU provided feedback to the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) regarding their proposed Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) guideline.
- MLHU provided feedback to the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) regarding their research review of community water fluoridation. Recommendations included creating summary documents, including autism as a health outcome, the need for clear conclusions, and that municipal and provincial governments collaborate to assess all local environmental impacts.
- The London Community Foundation granted the London Community Dental Alliance (LCDA) \$230,000 to create a dental clinic for low-income adults. MLHU supported the grant application.
- An oversample of the upcoming Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) in Middlesex-London by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) will measure changing attitudes and behaviours as children transition from elementary to high school.
- In July, the Board of Health approved the allocation of \$25,000 to enhance the inclusivity of MLHU’s physical environment. A small portion of these funds will be spent in 2018, with further expenditures deferred until 2019 in order to better align with the space design processes for the new location.

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Consultation

As part of its ongoing commitment to act in the public interest, RCDSO formed a working group to review its IPAC guideline. Based on the working group’s recommendations, the RCDSO’s Quality Assurance Committee presented the proposed standard to Council, where it was approved. As part of the consultation process, the proposal was circulated to stakeholders for comment.

Accordingly, MLHU has provided feedback to the RCDSO regarding the IPAC guideline. It was suggested that our feedback be added to the “Professional and Regulatory Considerations” section. It was emphasized that members of the RCDSO should see local public health units as partners and collaborators, since part of their mandate is to support dentists and dental health staff with education and guidance to improve IPAC practices.

The following measures were recommended:

- Dentists should work with public health unit staff during an IPAC investigation;
- RCDSO members should be aware that the new legislation, as outlined in the Infection Prevention and Control Disclosure Protocol, 2018, mandates the online reporting of IPAC lapses; and
- RCDSO members should be aware that Public Health Ontario's (PHO) role is to provide scientific advice, develop guidelines for IPAC, and assess the level of risk associated with an IPAC investigation. It is the role of the local public health unit to conduct the IPAC investigation.

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Water Fluoridation Consultation

The Chief Dental Officer of Canada commissioned the CADTH to conduct a health technology assessment of community water fluoridation to support Canadian decision makers. The assessment is to address the following topics: effectiveness, cost, safety, ethics, environmental impact, and implementation issues.

CADTH sought stakeholder feedback regarding the scientific rigour of the research and the proposed final reports. MLHU provided the following feedback:

- Summary documents should be developed for decision makers;
- The inclusion of Autism as a health outcome should be considered;
- Even though the final result was reported at the end of the ethics section, the inconsistent argument on the need for consent may be confusing to readers; and
- Consideration of water fluoridation should be done collaboratively with municipal and provincial authorities to ensure that all potential impacts on the local environment are addressed and mitigated.

London Community Dental Alliance (LCDA)

The 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 has applied for several grants to secure funding for a proposed dental clinic. The LCDA presented before the London Community Foundation and was granted its request of \$230,000. The LCDA will shortly be undertaking incorporation in order to upgrade its status from alliance to non-profit organization. MLHU will be granted membership status and will assist in planning and operation of the dental clinic.

Additional Sample for the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS)

In July, the Board of Health approved \$20,000 to obtain an oversample of the upcoming Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS) being conducted in Middlesex-London by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). There will be 500 students selected from grades 7 and 8, and 500 students from grades 9 to 12, to measure changing attitudes and behaviours as children transition from elementary to high school. As a result of the oversample, much richer data about local youth will be available on topics such as substance use, sleep, mental and physical health, body image, violence and bullying, food insecurity, and others. Data will also be analyzed by sex, grade, and socio-economic factors to understand priority populations. CAMH and MLHU are awaiting final confirmation from the school boards, and the schools randomly sampled, to participate in the study, which will greatly increase our chance of reaching the 1,000-respondent target. An additional \$8,600 payment will be required in 2020 after the dataset has been delivered. This data is essential for understanding the health status of our youth and focusing our Child Health and Young Adult teams' programming and services upon areas where it's needed most.

Update on Enhancing Inclusivity of Physical Space

As part of MLHU's health equity efforts, it is important to consider how the physical environment can help people feel welcome and enhance a sense of inclusivity and belonging for both clients and employees. In addition to a focus on how people are spoken to and treated, displaying inclusive signage and local artwork that reflects community diversity have also been identified as steps that may be taken to create a welcoming environment (EQUIP Health Care, 2017). Earlier in 2018, the Finance & Facilities Committee reviewed a request to use \$25,000 in variance funds to enhance the welcoming nature of MLHU's physical spaces. As this initiative must be aligned closely with the space design processes to be undertaken in 2019, most of this expenditure will be deferred until then. For 2018, MLHU will use approximately \$1,800 to enhance the sense of inclusivity within the quiet room (available both for client and employee use) and approximately \$4,000 to purchase artworks from three local Indigenous artists for display in the public spaces.



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