

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2019 January 24

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT – JANUARY 2019

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 007-19 re: “Summary Information Report – January 2019” be received for information.

Key Points

- Middlesex-London Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy partners prepared and submitted input to the Government of Canada’s Consultation on Strengthening Canada’s Drugs and Substances Strategy.
- Middlesex-London Health Unit staff submitted to the consultation for Bill 66 indicating concerns that this legislation could have negative impacts on human health.

Consultation on Strengthening Canada’s Drugs and Substances Strategy

Canada has had successive drug strategies in place since 1987, which have aimed to balance public health and public safety objectives via the key pillars of prevention, treatment, enforcement, and, at times, harm reduction. In 2006, under the National Anti-Drug Strategy (NADS), the harm reduction pillar was removed. The NADS was replaced in December 2016 with the [Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy \(CDSS\)](#), which takes a four-pillar approach. The goal of the CDSS is to protect the health and safety of all Canadians by minimizing harms from substance use for individuals, families, and communities. In September 2018, the Government of Canada released a [background document](#) and opened a public “[consultation on strengthening Canada’s approach to substance use issues](#)” to obtain input to further strengthen the federal government’s health-focused approach to substance-use issues (including alcohol and other drugs, as well as the problematic use of prescription drugs) via the CDSS. A submission of input, attached as [Appendix A](#), was prepared and submitted on December 4, 2018, by partners of the Middlesex-London Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy.

Bill 66

The Clean Water Act was enacted as a follow up to the Walkerton Inquiry Report. It enhanced the safety of drinking water in Ontario in a number of ways, including protection of source water. Bill 66 would amend the Planning Act to allow municipalities to pass “open-for-business” planning by-laws which could allow developers to bypass the Clean Water Act and several other pieces of environmental protection legislation. The bill would also repeal the Toxics Reduction Act, which requires large industries to track, report, and reduce their toxic emissions. Middlesex-London Health Unit staff submitted to the consultation for Bill 66 indicating concerns that this legislation could have negative impacts on human health ([Appendix C](#)). The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) and others submitted similar concerns. This update was prepared by the Safe Water, Rabies & Vector-Borne Disease team, Environmental Health & Infectious Disease Division ([Appendix B](#)).



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