

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / CEO

DATE: 2019 September 19

SUMMARY INFORMATION REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No055-19 re: “Summary Information Report for September 2019” be received for information.

Key Points

- Health Unit staff contributed to the development of a public health multi-agency submission providing input to Health Canada’s consultation on the potential market for cannabis health products that would not require practitioner oversight.
- Leadership and oversight of the tykeTALK, Infant Hearing and Blind Low Vision Programmes was successfully transitioned to Thames Valley Children’s Centre (TVCC) as of September 3, 2019

Health Canada Consultation on the Potential Market for Cannabis Health Products that would not Require Practitioner Oversight

Between June 19 and September 3, 2019, Health Canada conducted a [public consultation](#) on the potential market for cannabis health products (CHPs) that would not require practitioner oversight. A legal, regulated market currently exists for non-medical cannabis, as well as cannabis for medical purposes when medically authorized. Canadians cannot legally access a CHP that makes a health claim and does not require the oversight of a practitioner such as a doctor or veterinarian. The purpose of the consultation was to seek feedback from Canadians, cannabis and health products industries, and other interested stakeholders regarding product preference, as well as opinions on the parameters of a proposed approach and whether or not a legal pathway to market for CHPs should be established. Health Unit staff from the substance-use portfolio worked collaboratively with a sub-group of members from the Ontario Public Health Collaboration on Cannabis to develop a public health multi-agency submission with input focused on minimizing public health and public safety risks related to the potential sale of these products. The group response, attached as [Appendix A](#), highlights the need to prioritize regulations that reflect and support the intent of the *Cannabis Act*, specifically in preventing youth access to CHPs and ensuring that regulated products are scientifically proven to benefit the health of consumers prior to coming to market. Health Unit staff will continue to monitor Health Canada’s progress related to CHPs and will provide updates to the Board of Health as information becomes available.

tykeTALK, Infant Hearing, and Blind Low Vision Program Update

After effectively overseeing the implementation of these valuable programs in our region for over 20 years, MLHU has successfully transitioned leadership of the tykeTALK, Infant Hearing and Blind Low Vision Programmes to the Thames Valley Children’s Centre (TVCC) as of September 3, 2019. The direct referral line, fax line and website for the programmes were transferred to TVCC. Referrals and phone calls still

coming to MLHU are being forwarded to TVCC. The two remaining full-time permanent Program Assistants working in these programmes have transferred to other positions within MLHU. The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) confirmed that, effective Sept 2019, the funding for these programmes will now flow directly to TVCC. MLHU is required by MCCSS to conduct a financial audit for the period of April 1, 2019- August 31, 2019. Any remaining funds will be sent to TVCC once all invoices for the April to August period have been paid.



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