



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Graham L. Pollett, MD, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2012 May 17

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT – MAY

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 071-12 re Medical Officer of Health Activity Report – May be received for information.

The following report highlights activities of the Medical Officer of Health since the last Board of Health meeting.

A major focus of attention over the past month was the fluoridation issue. This is the subject of Report No. 075-12, this agenda. The Medical Officer of Health attended the Civic Works Committee meeting of April 23rd and the City Council meeting of May 1st when this item was considered. He was asked to address both bodies as part of the proceedings. Other activities included meetings with various City Councilors prior to the City Council meeting.

On April 23, 2012, the Medical Officer of Health also attended the Community Services Committee meeting where he provided a presentation on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Middlesex-London Board of Health. The PowerPoint presentation given is attached as [Appendix A](#). This item fully engaged members of the Committee such that the presentation and ensuing questions occupied over an hour of the Committee's time. An unexpected outcome was the passage by Community Services Committee of the following resolution:

The Mayor be requested to liaise with the Middlesex-London Board of Health and the County of Middlesex with respect to exploring the feasibility and benefits of potential Board of Health amalgamations in the area, particularly in consideration of the Capacity Review Committee report following SARS, and the recent Drummond Report, both of which suggested the amalgamation of various Boards of Health.

This resolution was subsequently endorsed by City Council May 1, 2012.

The Medical Officer of Health was named as the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health representative on the Healthy Schools Working Table Sub-Committee on Concussions. This group was struck by the Ministry of Education “to provide expert advice on key policy issues, including areas related to: concussion awareness, prevention, identification and management of return to physical activity, and learning for elementary and secondary students”. The Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee are attached as [Appendix B](#).

The need for the expert advice is as a result of the introduction by the provincial government of Bill 39 - An Act to amend the Education Act With Respect To Concussions. This Bill calls for each Board of Education “to comply with policies and guidelines respecting head injuries and concussions in pupils...”. The first meeting of the Working Table was held April 24, 2012.

The Medical Officer of Health attended the April 26th and 27th meeting of the Urban Public Health Network. The Network is comprised of Medical Officers of Health and Associates from urban centres across Canada. The purpose of the group includes the sharing of information on strategies to address common city public health issues.

Other meetings involving the Medical Officer of Health since the last Board of Health meeting included: a meeting of the Child and Youth Network; attendance at a Coaching Boys to Men Breakfast for high school boys, physical education teachers and coaches (the focus of this initiative is the prevention of violence against women); and participation in a meeting with Western University Communications Department staff to discuss communications strategies concerning public health issues involving university students.

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Medical Officer of Health