

RE: 1(x)

CITY OF TORONTO
PUBLIC HEALTH

March 13, 1997

To: Executive Committee

Subject: Cost of Implementation of the Cancer Prevention Strategy

Origin: Board of Health, September 6, 1997 (p:\1997\ug\cms\hld\ex970026.hld)

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of September 6, 1996, the Board of Health requested that the Medical Officer of Health report on the terms of reference, membership and resources necessary to implement a Cancer Prevention Task Force. Work on this request is in progress. Subsequently, at its meeting on March 4, 1997, the Board of Health gave consideration to the report entitled 1997 Operating Estimates. Public Health and Board of Health. The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report directly to City Council on the cost of implementation of the cancer prevention strategy. This report anticipates the full report requested by the Board of Health in September 1996 and outlines resource needs for the development of this cancer prevention initiative in 1997.

Comments:

The Board of Health has taken considerable interest in the March 1995 report Recommendations for the Primary Prevention of Cancer produced by the provincial Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer appointed by the Ontario Minister of Health. The purpose of the provincial Task Force was to prepare an action plan for cancer prevention and establish targets to reduce specific types of cancer.

On May 25, 1995, the Board of Health received a policy/contextual scan of all 81 recommendations of the Task Force Report. The scan included a description of what the Department of Public Health was currently doing and suggested additional municipal initiatives. An updated report on the same subject was presented to the Board on May 30, 1996. In relation to the Task Force recommendations, Public Health has made considerable inroads in tobacco use prevention, reduction of dietary risk factors and alcohol use, and physical activity promotion. Other agencies in the government and non-governmental sectors also engage in a variety of activities related to cancer prevention. However, there is no mechanism at the local or provincial level to plan, develop, coordinate or evaluate cancer prevention activities. Furthermore, the provincial government has taken little action to implement the recommendations of its own Task Force.

In this context, the Board of Health requested Public Health to report on the development of a local Cancer Prevention Task Force.

Cancer Prevention Task Force

Public Health staff have consulted with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, Ministry of Health, cancer organizations and advocates, and some voluntary funding agencies with respect to

establishing a Cancer Prevention Task Force to promote primary cancer prevention. Most of the responses have been positive. From these preliminary discussions, the groups consulted were in favour of an independent community body with all members committed to a shared purpose of primary cancer prevention and contributing resources to this end.

The work of the Task Force could include development of new cancer prevention initiatives, coordination of existing efforts, monitoring and communicating to the public progress on cancer prevention and advocating for public policy supportive of cancer prevention.

The next step is to bring together agencies and individuals with the interest and ability to achieve the Task Force's purpose. Potential members would include City staff, representatives from labour, cancer, health and environmental organizations, other metro Toronto health units, university representatives and community cancer advocates. Once assembled, the mission, process, purpose, and terms of reference of the Task Force will be finalized by the participants.

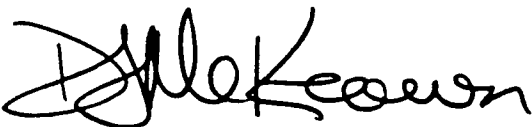
Resource Requirements

Public Health will require additional staff and other resources during the developmental phase to establish the Task Force. It is anticipated that when it is established, members of the Task Force will contribute resources, cash and/or in kind to support the ongoing work of the Task Force. In addition, the Task Force may seek external funding to continue its operation.

Anticipated developmental resource requirements in 1997 are as follows:

1. One full-time staff person for six months to support existing public health staff in working with relevant organizations and individuals to establish the Cancer Prevention Task Force. This could be accomplished through temporary assignment of an appropriately qualified displaced employee funded through the corporate streamlining pool.
2. The addition of \$5,000 to Public Health account #734-954 to support a one-day Cancer Prevention Planning Forum to bring together interested parties to plan cancer prevention strategies for Toronto including the establishment of the Cancer Prevention Task Force.

The allocation of these resources would enable the establishment of this important cancer prevention initiative in 1997.



David McKeown, MDCM, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Thank you for your letter regarding the City of Toronto's nomination for membership on the Metro District Health Council (MTDHC). The Ministry is committed to the continued participation of municipal representatives on the MTDHC.

The overall membership of District Health Councils (DHCs) is composed of 40% health service providers, 40% consumers of health services (i.e. non-health service providers) and 20% local government representatives (either municipal, district or regional government).

The twenty per cent of DHC membership that is designated for municipal members is an opportunity for collaboration between the municipalities, community members, and the provincial government, to plan the health services of the community.

As my advisors on the health needs of their communities, it is important for me to have a choice of candidates for an appointment to the MTDHC.

I continue to welcome the nomination of other candidates for membership on the MTDHC to represent the City of Toronto.

Please accept my best wishes.

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Task Force on Cancer Prevention

The Board of Health recommends that the Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Management establish a parallel city staff team to work with the Task Force on Cancer Prevention established by the Board of Health.

The Board of Health advises that it has adopted the following motion from Councillor Leckie:

1. *That the Board of Health establish a Cancer Prevention Task Force.*
2. *That the basic purpose be to develop appropriate policies and programs for the City of Toronto.*
3. *That as a beginning step the Task Force establish a forum to review the state of implementation of the Provincial Primary Prevention Task Force.*
4. *That membership include both interested citizens, some health professionals as well as interested agencies and representation from the academic community.*
5. *That representation include the Environmental, Women's and Food citizens' movements;*
6. *That the Acting Medical Officer of Health report on the terms of reference membership and resources necessary for activation of the task force.*
7. *That in so doing he consult with the London Health Unit.*