

## **THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT 16-2005**

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario on October 24, 2005, commencing at 12:40 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Almas; Angelone; Baty; Brock; Casselman; Goulbourne; Harry.

Staff: Mr. Mike Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

#### Staff

Part-time: Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter; Ms. Biscaro, Director, Population Health; Ms. Columbus, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services; Ms. Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease Program; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services, P.H.; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. Lacroix, Manager, Infectious Disease Program; Mr. Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Mr. McQueen, Manager, Emergency Services; Ms. Ott, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

#### **PRESENTATION**

##### 178. Niagara EcoCapacity Project

David Alexander, Project Director, provided a presentation on the Niagara EcoCapacity Initiative "Delivering Environment Canada's One Tonne Challenge Program in Niagara". Mr. Alexander highlighted the ecocap.org work plan and the One Tonne Challenge as well as the dividends received through the One Tonne Program.

Mr. Alexander presented the Four components of the initiative as:

- Anti-idling/Tire-Pressure Checks campaign
- Light Bulb Switch Out
- Corporate component – Green Purchasing
- Communications: Literacy and Information

Mr. Alexander provided a Public Health Perspective to the One Tonne Challenge.

- The OTC is in keeping with some short-term and long-term Public Health goals
- Air Quality and Climate Change is linked at source
- Taking the OTC also promotes improvements in general health and safety on the road and at home
- Climate Change is an environmental hazard as it is linked to related health exposures, diseases and injury risks
- An understanding of air quality and climate change aids in and prepares for major emergency situations such as extreme weather event response and recovery
- The OTC benefits vulnerable populations

Committee was apprised of the potential climate change impacts on health; agriculture, forests; water resources; coastal areas and species and natural areas.

Local climate change impacts were identified as:

- Poor air event trends: greater frequency, longer duration, more severe, year round.
- Increased costs in planning for greater risks, hazards from extreme weather, clean-up costs, lost productivity, lake level drops, more floods, droughts, fires, etc.
- Social and economic impacts: higher energy costs, risk of spread of disease and other health impacts, insurance claims, more services mean higher taxes, loss of tourism dollars, vulnerable parts of the population (the elderly, the young and asthmatics of all ages) most at risk.

In conclusion, Mr. Alexander asked Committee to consider the following:

- ❖ Step One: Positive Leadership right now
  - a meaningful (and fun) PHD effort to take the OTC
  - Challenge other health institutions to take the OTC
- ❖ Step Two: Joint with other leading stakeholders
  - Commit to a Niagara 'Demand-side' summit on January 18, 2006
- ❖ Step Three: A 2006 budget item
  - Lead an Air Quality/Climate Change initiative to compliment the award winning NWQPS

Dr. Sider advised that in the next six weeks, a full report will be coming to Committee regarding Air Quality and he commented that this report should not be limited to Public Health but applicable to the corporation. Dr. Sider also commented that the department will be participating in the January 18<sup>th</sup> summit to learn how they can move forward on the Eco-capacity Initiative.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That the presentation by David Alexander regarding the Niagara Eco-Capacity Initiative, be received; and

That staff prepare a report with the assistance of other departments, on how the Region can best participate and meet the One Tonne Challenge.

Carried.

(The presentation is attached to the minutes.)

### **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

#### 179. 2006 Capital Budget Request

Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health, commented that the only Public Health Department 2006 Capital Budget request is from its Emergency Services Division.

John Cunnane and Chris McQueen of the Emergency Services Division provided the following brief explanation of this request:

Project ZGR0602 in the amount of \$1,090,000 to consist of the following:

- \$910,000 is recurring annual capital amount (50% Ministry funded-\$455,000) for replacement of ambulances and specialized equipment
- \$180,000 is for an additional vehicle and related equipment to address difficult to service areas (one time request)

Project ZGR0601 - \$350,000

- \$350,000 is the purchase price for Port Colborne Ambulance Station that was reported and accepted by Council as a cost effective alternative to the existing leasing arrangement (Joint Report PHD 72-2003/PWA 166-2003/CSD 151-2003)

Wainfleet Emergency First Response – Equipment - \$60,000

- \$60,000 for the supply of equipment necessary for the Wainfleet Fire Department to provide Emergency First Response in this difficult to service area

Moved by Councillor Angelone  
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That the presentation by John Cunnane and Chris McQueen on the 2006 Capital Budget Request by the Public Health Department's Emergency Services Division, be received.

Carried.

### **JOINT REPORT**

180. Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee Strategic Plan  
2005 Update and Expenditure Request

Linda Beyer, Health Promoter, provided an update on the implementation of the Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee (RNRSC) 5 year strategic plan for road safety initiatives in Niagara. Ms. Beyer advised that part of the committee's comprehensive strategic plan to reduce serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions in Niagara is the development and implementation of a community-based social marketing campaign aimed at changing driver behaviour specific to Niagara's traffic crash problem. Ms. Beyer introduced Petar Vujic, Public Works; Sgt. David Brennan, Niagara Regional Police Service and John Sherwin, CAA, members of the RNRSC, who were in attendance to respond to any questions.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 60-2005, October 24, 2005 (PWA 173-2005, October 25, 2005), respecting Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee Strategic Plan: 2005 Update and Expenditure Request, be received for information.

That approval, in principle, be received for a three year (2006-2008) comprehensive social marketing campaign targeting road safety in Niagara to reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries on Niagara roadways; and

That this report and the expenditure request be forwarded to the Budget Review Committee for consideration during the 2006 budget process with

an amendment to No. 2 of the Budget Request Details to remove the request for funding from area municipalities; and

That this report and all relevant information on this matter be circulated and shared with the area municipalities.

Carried.

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT** (continued)

181. Youth Action Alliance (YAA) – Tobacco Program

David Lorenzo, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, joined by Lorraine Rudolph, Population Health Division, provided an overview of the Youth Action Alliance (YAA) component of the Tobacco Program. The program will employ two Youth Action Advisors, 14 part-time Peer Leaders and recruit youth volunteers throughout Niagara. The priorities of the program are to reduce youth tobacco rates and help build and foster youth advocacy skills.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Report PHD 61-2005, October 24, 2005, respecting Youth Action Alliance (YAA) – Tobacco Program, be received for information; and

That the Mayors/Youth Committees be contacted in regards to this program.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That staff provide information on the Public Health Department's (including Emergency Services Division) provincial cost sharing programs as to whether there is adequate indexing for inflationary and other program cost increases to ensure sustainability of these programs.

Carried.

(Refer to staff direction on page PHSC 91.)

182. The Public Health Department's  
Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006

Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Public Health, provided a brief overview of the department's updated strategic plan for 2003-2006.

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 62-2005, October 24, 2005, respecting The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006, be received for information.

Carried.

183. Status Report: Tuberculosis Control

Heather Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease Program and Lois Lacroix, Manager, Infectious Disease Program, attended to apprise Committee of the Public Health Department's compliance and activity data for the year 2004, for the TB Control Program.

Moved by Councillor Casselman  
Seconded by Councillor Brock

That Report PHD 63-2005, October 24, 2005, respecting Status Report: Tuberculosis Control, be received for information.

Carried.

184. Niagara Ambulance Communication Service (NACS) and  
Niagara Emergency Medical Service (NEMS): Three Month Update

John Cunnane, Director, Emergency Services Division, and Chris McQueen, Manager, Emergency Services Administration, provided an update of the EMS services, an overview of overall service performance and a review of recent successes and challenges with respect to service delivery.

Moved by Councillor Baty  
Seconded by Councillor Almas

That Report PHD 64-2005, October 24, 2005, respecting Niagara Ambulance Communication Service (NACS) and Niagara Emergency Medical Service (NEMS): Three Month Update, be received for information.

Carried.

185. Workplace Wellness Program Initiatives

Laurie Columbus, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention Division, provided highlights of the Workplace Wellness initiatives in Niagara and Canada's Healthy Workplace Week October 24 – 30, 2005. Committee and Council members are invited to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wellness in the Workplace Conference on November 23, 2005, entitled "Challenges, Choices and Changes: Becoming an Employer of Choice" featuring workplace health researcher Dr. Graham Lowe.

Moved by Councillor Brock  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report PHD 65-2005, October 24, 2005, respecting Workplace Wellness Program Initiatives, be received for information.

Carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

186. Moved by Councillor Almas  
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the following communications be received:

PHSC 49-2005 Pat M. Madill, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham (September 29, 2005) respecting Niagara Regional Chair's Correspondence (Regulation of the Tanning Industry).

PHSC 50-2005 R. J. Kyle, Commissioner & Medical officer of Health, The Regional Municipality of Durham (September 15, 2005) respecting the Regulation of the Tanning Industry.

PHSC 51-2005 Pat M. Madill, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham (September 29, 2005) regarding Thunder Bay & District Board of Health Resolution respecting the development of program standards and 100% provincial grants for environmental health programs and service.

PHSC 52-2005 Paul Martin, Prime Minister, (September 29, 2005) regarding the appointment of the Honourable Paul DeVillers to Parliamentary Secretary and the Niagara Region's obesity program.

PHSC 53-2005 Connie Bryson, Chair, Thunder Bay District Board of Health (October 12, 2005) respecting Use of commercial Tanning Beds by Minors.

Carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

187. Avian Flu

Dr. Sider provided a brief update on the Avian Flu commenting that Health Officials continue to monitor this flu and develop pandemic influenza planning at local and regional levels.

188. Emergency Planning Conference

Committee requested information on the Emergency Planning Conference that is to be held in Niagara Falls on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This information is attached to the minutes.

### **STAFF DIRECTION**

That staff be directed to:

- (i) Provide information regarding the evaluation of other jurisdictions that implemented a youth tobacco model of peer-to-peer awareness (Refer to minute 181)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 2:55 p.m. to meet again on Monday, November 14, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. in C.R. 4, Regional Headquarters.

Bruce Timms  
Chair

Gail Reilly  
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy  
Regional Clerk