

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

TO: Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit

DESTINATAIRE : Conseil de santé de la circonscription sanitaire de la ville d'Ottawa

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SUBJECT: **CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT**

OBJET : **RAPPORT VERBAL DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL DE SANTÉ**

*Check upon delivery*

Good evening everyone,

Thank you for joining us at our second Board of Health meeting of 2016. As OPH launches into spring, I have a few updates and acknowledgements that I would like to share with you.

**Anniversary**

Before I begin, I would like to note that this meeting also marks the fifth anniversary of the independent Ottawa Board of Health. Having held its inaugural meeting in April 2011, the Board of Health is responsible for upholding public health standards in

Ottawa. With a variety of perspectives, each and every Board member brings a different contribution to the table and I appreciate your work. As we mark this anniversary, I would like to thank all those who contributed to the establishment of the Board and the current members for their leadership and stewardship as we aim to make Ottawa a City where people are healthy, safe and actively engaged in their well-being.

### **Staffing News**

Of course, the work of the Board would not be possible without support from our staff – specifically, from our Board of Health Secretary. On that note, Ms. Diane Blais has accepted to join the Ottawa Public Health (OPH) team and provide support as Board of Health Secretary as Ms. Gillian Connelly has accepted a new position at OPH as Manager of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Gillian for her dedication, hard work and perseverance seeing us through some challenging issues. On behalf of all of our Board members, I wish her success in her new position. Also, on behalf of the entire Board, I would like to welcome Diane Blais as the new secretary of the Board. Diane has over 20 years of experience in municipal governance and legislative services. She has served as a City of Ottawa Standing Committee Coordinator and most recently as Coordinator of Policy and Projects. I know this experience from the City Clerk and Solicitor Department and her knowledge of municipal government will be an asset to OPH and the Board.

### **Parenting in Ottawa anniversary**

Finally, I would like to draw attention to another important anniversary – the one-year anniversary of Ottawa Public Health's Parenting in Ottawa/Être Parent à Ottawa website.

Last March, Parenting in Ottawa was launched as a means to make parenting in Ottawa a little bit easier. This new web site and Facebook page were created by Ottawa Public Health and its community partners to provide parents with information from and access to local health experts. Parents with questions ranging from pregnancy to mental health have been connecting online where discussions are moderated by a registered nurse.

In the past year, the website has had over 61,000 users and 155,000 page views. The website has raised awareness about initiatives such as immunization reporting and mental health promotion.

The team's mission in launching parenting in Ottawa was to share information, respond to questions and create a place for parents to get together to chat about raising kids in our community. In light of the community's response to the launch, I think the team has more than succeeded.

Congratulations on the one year anniversary of Parenting in Ottawa and I hope parents will continue to use the web site and Facebook page.

That concludes my comments this evening. I would be happy to take any questions from Board members.