



**\* SPECIAL MEETING \***  
**Ottawa Board of Health**  
**MINUTES 11**

**Monday, June 15, 2020, 5:00 PM**

**By Electronic Participation**

**Contact for the Ottawa Board of Health:**

**Diane Blais, Board of Health Secretary**

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**Board Members:**

**Chair: K. Egli**

**Vice-Chair: T. DeGiovanni**

**Members: E. Banham, J. Cloutier, E. El-Chantiry, G. Gower, T. Kavanagh,  
L. Leikin, S. Menard, S. Pinel, P. Tilley**

The Ottawa Board of Health met via Zoom, on Monday, June 15, 2020 beginning at 5:00 PM.

Councillor Keith Egli, Chair of the Board of Health, presided over the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

**First Nations, Inuit, Métis Elders offered opening prayers in recognition of the National Aboriginal History Month (June) and National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21).**

ROLL CALL

All members participated.

REGRETS

No regrets were filed.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (INCLUDING THOSE ORIGINALLY ARISING FROM PRIOR MEETINGS)

No declarations of interest were filed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of April 20, 2020.**

CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

**Five communication items have been received (held on file with the Board of Health Secretary).**

MOTION TO INTRODUCE REPORTS

**Motion 11/1**

Moved by Member Pinel

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Ottawa Public Health 2019 Annual Report, Reconciliation, Indigenous Health Equity and COVID-19, Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter One of 2020, 2020 Operating Budget Q1 Status Report – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit, be received and considered.**

CARRIED

Following a 'Consent Agenda' process, the Board considered the held Items in the order in which they appear on the Agenda.

1. CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

ACS2020-OPH-BOH-0004

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

Chair Egli began his verbal update by highlighting a new health protection resource – a book that is the result of a year-long collaboration between Ottawa

Public Health (OPH) and Algonquin Elder, Albert Dumont. "*Grandpa's Wisdom - An Algonquin Reflection on West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease*" is an intergenerational story, authored and illustrated by Elder Albert Dumont.

Grand Chief Verna Polson was there to (virtually) receive the book on behalf of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation, whose land and people were top of mind as this resource was being developed.

Chair Egli then congratulated Esther Moghadam, OPH's Director of Health Promotion and Chief Nursing Officer, who recently received the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario's *Leadership Award in Nursing Administration*. Lastly, he updated Board Members on a Safe Supply motion approved by City Council in May and on the City's plan for the gradual re-opening of its programs, services and facilities in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 25 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Chair's Verbal Update.

2. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

[ACS2020-OPH-MOH-0004](#)

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED, as amended by Motion 11/3

Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health, provided a timely reminder about West Nile virus and Lyme disease, discussed OPH's plans for resuming some of the programs, services and initiatives put on hold or scaled due to the pandemic response, talked about some of the unintended consequences of the pandemic response, and provided an update on OPH's response to the pandemic.

Arising out of Dr. Etches' verbal update, the Board approved a motion recognizing racism as an important public health concern and directing various actions to address this issue.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 1 hour and 25 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Medical Officer of Health's Verbal Update.

At 6:49 p.m., during discussion on the above item, the Board approved a motion to extend the time of the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m.

**Motion 11/2**

Moved by Member Pinel

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health approve that the meeting time be extended past 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(c) of the *Procedural By-law*.**

CARRIED

Chair Egli ceded the Chair to Vice-Chair DeGiovanni in order to introduce Motion 11/3.

**Motion 11/3**

Moved by Chair Egli

**WHEREAS racism, discrimination and stigma are associated with poorer physical, mental and emotional health and greater mortality, making anti-black racism, anti-Indigenous racism and racism against minorities an important public health issue; and**

**WHEREAS public health has a role in promoting the health of the entire population by working with others to ensure fair opportunities for health and well-being; and**

**WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health is guided by its commitments to Engage, as expressed in its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan (to work with residents,**

partners and communities to develop the conditions that support health and health equity); and

WHEREAS members of the African, Caribbean, and Black community experience physical, social, mental and emotional harms to health due to anti-Black racism present across sectors including health, education, employment, housing, child care, policing and law enforcement, and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS the mental health impacts of racial discrimination will be highlighted in Ottawa Public Health's "*Mental Health of Ottawa's Black Community*" research study, which is set to be released soon and will include recommendations developed with the community; and

WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan also expresses the health unit's commitment to Reconciliation (working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and communities to advance Indigenous health equity); and

WHEREAS First Nations, Inuit and Metis community members must have control over how data is collected, analyzed and used related to the health of Indigenous community members, including COVID-19 data; and

WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health is exploring opportunities to collaborate with the City's Anti-Racism Directorate and with Councillor King, as City Council's Liaison for Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Initiatives, to address anti-Black racism, and the impact of racism on First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, newcomers and others;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit recognize that racism is a public health issue and direct the Medical Officer of Health to establish training targets for Board members, employees, learners and volunteers to participate in anti-Black racism and other anti-racism training to contribute to improved health outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health direct the Medical Officer of Health to develop an evidence-based campaign to increase awareness of the impacts of racism and discrimination related to COVID and actions to counter racism in Ottawa; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health dedicate resources and direct the Medical Officer of Health to seek further community partnerships to implement recommendations to improve African, Caribbean and Black mental health in Ottawa; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health establish a process, in collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Metis partners, to ensure respectful planning, collection, analysis and sharing of health data to inform improvements to physical and mental health of Indigenous populations in Ottawa; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health direct the Medical Officer of Health to ensure that Ottawa Public Health informs community consultations on addressing systemic racism in Ottawa, such as through the Community Safety and Well-being Plan's development and implementation.**

CARRIED

Following approval of Motion 11/3, Chair Egli resumed chairing the meeting.

3. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ACS2020-OPH-BOH-0005

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:**

- 1. Receive Ottawa Public Health's 2019 Annual Report; and**
- 2. Approve that it be forwarded to Ottawa City Council for information, in accordance with the City of Ottawa Act, 1999.**

CARRIED

4. RECONCILIATION, INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUITY AND COVID-19

ACS2020-OPH-KPQ-0005

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

5. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2022 – UPDATE FROM QUARTER ONE OF 2020

ACS2020-OPH-KPQ-0004

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.**

RECEIVED

6. 2020 OPERATING BUDGET Q1 STATUS REPORT – BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE CITY OF OTTAWA HEALTH UNIT

ACS2020-OPH-PCS-0003

**That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the 2020 Q1 operating budget status report for information.**

RECEIVED, as amended by Motion 11/4

Mr. Lou Flaborea, Manager of Performance and Corporate Services, responded to questions on the report and on discussions surrounding COVID-related costs. The Board then voted on Motion 11/4 and on the report, as amended.



Discussion on this item lasted approximately 15 minutes.

**Motion 11/4**

Moved by Member Pinel

**WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health has been in enhanced operations since January 28, 2020 due to COVID-19, which was declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020;**

**AND WHEREAS since even prior to that date, Ottawa Public Health has been working closely with various health sector partners, neighbouring health units, as well as multi-jurisdictional all-hazards emergency preparedness partners, including first responders and the Ottawa Airport Authority, to assess the local situation, review guidance and recommendations from other jurisdictions, share information and coordinate actions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic;**

**AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has been, and continues to be, in a Provincial State of Emergency since March 17, 2020 while the City of Ottawa has been, and continues to be in a Municipal State of Emergency since March 25, 2020;**

**AND WHEREAS on March 25, 2020, the Government of Ontario announced an increased investment of up to \$160M for the public health sector for COVID-19 extraordinary costs, \$100M of which was specifically approved for extraordinary costs incurred by public health units and Public Health Ontario in monitoring, containing, and detecting COVID-19;**

**AND WHEREAS on April 23, 2020, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a memo to boards of health/public health units regarding COVID-19 extraordinary costs in which he reiterated that public health units are expected to take all necessary measures to respond to COVID-19 while continuing to maintain critical public health programs, provided assurance that there will be a process for reimbursement of COVID-19 extraordinary costs' and requested that public health units continue to track COVID-19 costs separately;**

**AND WHEREAS local health units have yet to receive confirmation from the Government of Ontario with respect to their 2020 funding and these**

**health units are currently operating with great financial uncertainty since there is no information on what portion of the announced funding will be provided to each unit;**

**AND WHEREAS as of March 31, 2020, Ottawa Public Health is operating with a budget deficit of \$280,000 and current budget deficit projections could increase to between five to ten million dollars depending on future COVID-19 response requirements;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit direct its Chair to write to the Premier of Ontario and the Ontario Minister of Health to ask that they commit to:**

- **Providing 2020 funding letters as soon as possible, including details of processes for local health units to draw on one-time funds allocated to extraordinary COVID-19 costs;**
- **Providing a commitment to increase local health unit base funding in 2021 to address ongoing COVID-19 operating requirements, including: ongoing increased pressures for evolving public communications; informing and guiding numerous stakeholders; supporting the testing strategy; maintaining new surveillance and reporting requirements; carrying out case management and contact tracing; leading outbreak investigation and management; implementing new information technology systems; as well as preparing for mass immunization if a vaccine becomes available; and that they share this information with local health units before the end of Q3 in order for it to be included as part of the 2021 budget deliberations.**

CARRIED

MOTION TO ADOPT REPORTS

**Motion 11/5**

Moved by Member Pinel

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Ottawa Public Health 2019 Annual Report, Reconciliation, Indigenous Health Equity and COVID-19, Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter One of 2020, 2020 Operating Budget Q1 Status Report – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit, be received and adopted.**

CARRIED

#### MOTIONS REQUIRING SUSPENSION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

There were no motions requiring suspension of the rules.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION (FOR CONSIDERATION AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING)

There were no Notices of Motion (for consideration at a subsequent meeting).

#### CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

##### **Motion 11/6**

Moved by Member Pinel

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2020-3, a by-law of the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit to confirm the proceedings of the Ottawa Board of Health at its meeting of June 15, 2020, be read and passed.**

CARRIED

INQUIRIES AND ANSWERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

**Regular Meeting**

Monday, September 21, 2020 - 5:00 PM

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**BOARD SECRETARY**

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**BOARD CHAIR**