

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 12-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, 2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Baty, Co-Chair; Casselman, Co-Chair; Goulbourne; Greenwood; Henderson; Marshall; Rigby; Timms.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dr. Williams, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Other: Community Services: Ms. Macoretta, Manager, Community Services; Ms. O'Hagan-Todd, Director, Children's Services; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities.

Public Health: Mr. Christensen, Director, Environmental Health; Ms. Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease Program; Mr. Jones, Director, Administrative Services; Ms. Kalailieff, Manager, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner of Health; Ms. LaCroix, Manager, Infectious Disease Program; Ms. McCallum, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Dr. J. Nassif; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Dr. Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Volpe, Health Promoter; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention.

Administration: Mr. Roberts, Executive Officer to Regional Chair.

Human Resources: Ms. Casement, Manager, Employee Relations; Ms. Elliott, Acting Human Resources Lead; Mr. Hagar, Manager, Employee Relations.

Planning: Mr. Benson, Planner; Mr. Robson, Acting Commissioner, Planning.

Others: Ms. Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing.

PRESENTATION

189. Smoke Free Champion Lifetime Award

Councillor Casselman, Co-Chair, on behalf of the Public Health and Social Services Committee, presented the Smoke Free Champion Lifetime Award to Linda Rix, Manager, Tobacco Program, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program. Since May 31, 2006, through the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, the provincial government has been protecting the health of all Ontarians by prohibiting smoking in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places. Linda's work started well before this legislation.

In 1993 Linda was hired as one of two Health Promoters charged with Tobacco Use Prevention for the Niagara Region. Under her leadership, tenacity, incredible commitment, and energy, Regional Council approved a Smoke-Free Public Places By-law in 1997 which was strengthened in 2003. The changes in tobacco control over the last ten years have had the greatest impact on the health of the Niagara community during this time period. Through educating, implementing, enforcing and evaluation the Smoke-Free Public Places by-laws to the Smoke Free Ontario Act and from a focus on smoking cigarettes to broader education on tobacco in general, the knowledge and strategies needed to work on this major public health issue has grown.

Linda has effectively communicated and implemented the three components of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy – protection, prevention and cessation – at the local, Central West and provincial levels. Linda has consistently displayed leadership in the tobacco field, leading a team that has, and continues to work hard and be committed to, a tobacco free Niagara.

The plaque in Linda's honour acknowledges her hard work, humour, creativity, sensibility and dedication to creating a positive work environment and her commitment to developing a tobacco-free Niagara.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

190. Nutritious Food Basket 2008 **COM 54-2008/PHD 51-2008**

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That the Regional Chairman and Council endorse the Ontario Public Health Association's (OPHA) Resolution #5 (Appendix A), Access to A Nutritious Diet for All, which emphasizes "the importance of everyone being able to afford to eat foods that contribute to a healthy diet and the need for a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy in Ontario".

Defeated.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That Report PHD 51-2008, COM 54-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Nutritious Food Basket 2008, be received.

That the Regional Chairman send a letter to the Minister of Health Promotion requesting that the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB) data be reviewed and used to inform provincial program and policy decisions, such as respecting the provincial Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) strategy;

That the Regional Chairman send a letter to the Minister of Community & Social Services and to the Minister of Finance urging a further increase in social assistance rates, without increasing the municipal contribution to ensure that all Ontarians have sufficient income to meet the basic needs of shelter and nutritious food.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests.)

191. Integrated Labour Market Planning Project
COM 55-2008

Moved by Councillor Goulbourne
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 55-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Integrated Labour Market Planning Project, be received.

That Community Services be authorized to receive funds in the amount of \$82,328 (100%) from the Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) to participate in the Integrated Labour Market Planning Project.

Carried.

192. Proposed Climate Change Action Work Plan
PHD 49-2008 (DPD 43-2008)

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 49-2008, October 7, 2008 (DPD 43-2008, October 8, 2008) Respecting Proposed Climate Change Action Work Plan, be received; and

That Council endorse the proposed Climate Change Action Plan Work Program.

Carried.

193. Initiation of Climate Change Action Planning
PHD 50-2008 (DPD 44-2008)

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PHD 50-2008, October 7, 2008 (DPD 44-2008, October 8, 2008) respecting Initiation of Climate Change Action Planning, be received.

That up to \$50,000 be allocated from the 2008 Council Business Plan pool of funds for a dedicated contract resource person to co-ordinate actions relating to the Region's response to climate change.

Carried.

194. Approval of 2007 Financial Statements and
2008 Fiscal Financial Statements – Public Health Program
PHD 52-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PHD 52-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Approval of 2007 Financial Statements and 2008 Fiscal Financial Statements – Public Health Programs, be received.

That the Financial Statements for all Public Health Programs for the years ended December 31, 2007 and March 31, 2008, be approved and accepted; and

That this report be forwarded to the Region's Audit Committee for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

195. 2008/09 Integrated Status Update – Niagara Best Start Network
COM 56-2008

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report COM 56-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting 2008/09 Integrated Status Update – Niagara Best Start Network, be received for information.

Carried.

196. Capital Repair Program Process for NRH Housing Providers
COM 57-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 57-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Capital Repair Program Process for NRH Housing Providers, be received for information.

Carried.

197. Infectious Disease Program:
Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Update
PHD 47-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PHD 47-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Infectious Disease Program: Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Update, be received for information.

Carried.

198. Vaccine Preventable Disease Program:
Influenza Clinic Update
PHD 48-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That Report PHD 48-2008, October 7, 2008, respecting Vaccine Preventable Disease Program: Influenza Clinic Update, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

199. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following communication be received.

PHSS 52-2008 Bernie Cusack and Pat Hunte, Port Colborne (July 29, 2008) regarding treatment systems overflows and impact on beaches.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

200. Issues for Discussion
Niagara Week, Queen's Park

Councillor Goulbourne inquired as to whether the Best Start Program and Nutritious Food Basket are issues that have been or should be discussed during Niagara Week at Queen's Park. Mr. Hutchings advised that past discussions have included Best Start and Youth Programs as well as the overall issue of poverty for which basic needs for shelter and nutritious food would be part of the discussions. Mr. Hutchings commented that ongoing advocacy and strong government relations are needed to ensure that these types of issues are dealt with throughout the year.

201. Conscientious Objectors-Vaccinations

Councillor Marshall inquired as to whether there has been a recent review of protocols regarding "Conscientious Objectors" opposed to the receiving of vaccinations and if there was some way to strengthen these protocols. Dr. Sider advised that these protocols are Provincial and broader understandings of these protocols are required across communities. He advised that approximately 2.5% of parents across all schools are "Conscientious Objectors".

CLOSED SESSION

202. Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Greenwood

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to Collective Agreement-IUOE Local 772 – Community Services Department.

Carried.

203. Collective Agreement – IUOE Local 772
Community Services Department
Confidential HR 18-2008

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That Confidential Report HR 18-2008, October 8, 2008, respecting Collective Agreement – IUOE Local 772 Community Services Department, be received for information.

Carried.

204. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Goulbourne

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

That staff:

- (i) Circulate Report COM 54-2008/PHD 51-2008 to appropriate Social Assistance Agencies and municipal councils for information. (Marshall)
(Refer to minute 190.)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m., to meet again in Committee Room 4 on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. ***(Please note October 28th meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict with the Public Health Forum.)***

Brian Baty
Co-Chair

Judy Casselman
Co-Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk