



CITY OF HAMILTON
Public Health Services
Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	June 16, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Appointment of Temporary Associate Medical Officer of Health – BOH14026 (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson (905) 546-2424, Ext. 3502
SUBMITTED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Dr. Matthew Hodge be appointed as Associate Medical Officer of Health, and the necessary documentation forwarded to the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care for approval;
- (b) That Dr. Matthew Hodge be appointed as an Acting Medical Officer of Health until such time as the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care approves his appointment as Associate Medical Officer of Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council, in its role as Board of Health, must formally appoint Associate Medical Officers of Health (AMOH), and have these appointments approved by the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care. As the appointment process through the Ministry can take up to several months, it is recommended that Dr. Hodge be appointed as an Acting Medical Officer of Health, as permitted under the Health Protection & Promotion Act (HPPA), such that he may carry out the duties of an associate medical officer until such time as the Minister's approval is received.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for recommendation(s) only)

These recommendations are made in accordance with the *HPPA*.

This position is part of the existing budget and complement of Public Health Services (PHS). Dr. Hodge has been hired on a part time contract basis and will be joining the department while the full-time recruitment for an AMOH occurs.

Financial: No financial implications

Staffing: No staffing implications

Legal: No legal implications

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

The current vacancy was created when Dr. Hamidah Meghani, AMOH accepted the position of Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health with Halton Region.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

This appointment is consistent with the requirements of the *HPPA*.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with Human Resources, who have assisted in the recruitment of the vacant AMOH position.

**ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION
(Include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data if applicable)**

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and AMOHs each provide medical leadership and consultation to the programs across PHS, with the MOH providing overall organizational leadership and management as required under the *HPPA*. Dr. Hodge is a Public Health and Preventive Medicine Specialist with the qualifications required by the *HPPA*. He has worked with the City in the past as an AMOH on both a full-time and contract basis, and is familiar with the needs of our community and the organization. As a temporary appointment, Dr Hodge will provide oversight and consultation on the most urgent and important work within the portfolios held by Dr. Meghani during her tenure with PHS. Some work within the Family Health and Health Protection portfolios will be delayed as a result of the gap that has been created, and response times may be slower than usual. However, the most urgent and important issues will continue to be addressed under Dr Hodge's guidance.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

(Include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and Pros and Cons for each alternative)

In order to ensure timely and effective response to public health demands, no other alternatives have been considered at this time.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Meghani provided leadership to several issues within the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan; including the strategy to reduce low birth weights, air quality initiatives and climate change initiatives. Recruitment is being undertaken consistent with the principles of the workforce development strategy.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable