

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

Board of Health Date: September 18, 2014

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. MCHATTIE.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....**

### **Response to Aboriginal Health Issues in the City of Hamilton**

WHEREAS, Aboriginal people living in Hamilton experience higher rates of poverty and disproportionate rates of chronic disease and associated risk factors than the general population. Poverty rates are associated with the challenges linked to the determinates of health including access to health care, housing and food security (Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC), Our Health Counts, 2011); and

WHEREAS, Public Health Services (PHS) is mandated to reduce the burden of preventable chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, PHS has worked with our Aboriginal communities regarding cancer prevention and screening since 2007; and

WHEREAS, PHS has recently had a successful partnership with over ten Aboriginal service providers/agencies to engage Aboriginal communities, promote cancer screening, and help mentor the CASTLE Project Community Health Educator/Navigator (CHEN) to address low cancer screening rates from April 2013- April 2014; and

WHEREAS, PHS Chronic Disease Prevention Program staff are planning to re-convene with the CASTLE Aboriginal Partners in the fall of 2014 to plan how to continue to address health disparities regarding cancer rates and health access; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) is mandated to work with Aboriginal communities for improved health and wellness:

*“Local Health Integration Networks are mandated to work with Aboriginal communities for improved health and wellness. The HNHB LHIN has a responsibility to learn about and respect Aboriginal communities’ approach to health and wellness and how this approach guides the identification of health needs and solutions”*

[http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=6712&ekmense=e2f22c9a\\_72\\_336\\_6712\\_6](http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca/Page.aspx?id=6712&ekmense=e2f22c9a_72_336_6712_6)

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That staff from PHS engage with urban Aboriginal leaders to explore opportunities to address relevant health issues through culturally sensitive solutions; and
- (b) That the Mayor, on behalf of the Board of Health and Council, request support from the LHIN to continue/renew funding for an Aboriginal Community Health Educator/Navigator focused on Chronic Disease Prevention.