



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Living Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 19, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2015 One-Time Smoke-Free Ontario Act Funding Requests - BOH15007 (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Kevin McDonald (905) 546-2424, Ext.1984
SUBMITTED BY:	Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to receive, utilize and report on one-time funding for 2015 (up to \$45,000) under the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy from Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), and execute an agreement between the City and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For 2015, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) will consider one-time funding requests (at 100%) for:

- The purchase and provision of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to complement smoking cessation interventions for priority populations, and
- Extraordinary expenses borne by Boards of Health to support expanded enforcement efforts during the 2015 operating year. These efforts would support the implementation of the “new” Smoke-Free Ontario Act Regulatory Amendments announced by the Ontario Government on November 7, 2014.

The deadline for submitting the 2015 Program-Based Grants and other supporting documentation to the MOHLTC is February 27, 2015.

Public Health Services (PHS) proposes to submit one-time funding requests (at 100%) in the amount of \$25,000 for NRT and \$20,000 for expanded tobacco enforcement.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

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

Financial: For 2015, the MOHLTC will consider one-time funding requests (at 100%) for the purchase and provision of NRT to complement smoking cessation interventions for priority populations. It will also consider additional extraordinary expenses borne by Boards of Health to respond to complaints and is providing Boards of Health with the opportunity to request additional funding to support expanded enforcement efforts during the 2015 operating year. Should the one-time funding requests be granted, the result would be cost savings to the City of Hamilton.

Staffing: No staffing implications

Legal: The City of Hamilton must sign a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the MOHLTC. Legal Services will be engaged in the review of the TPA.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Chronology of events)

- Public Health Units across Ontario have been responsible for enforcing the Smoke-Free Ontario Act since it came into effect May 31, 2006.
- Hamilton PHS has been operating its Smoking Cessation Clinic since 2007 which provides one-to-one intensive counselling and the provision of NRT to eligible clients.
- PHS received \$25,000 (at 100%) in 2014 for the purchase and provision of NRT to complement smoking cessation interventions for priority populations. These products were used in conjunction with the department's Smoking Cessation Clinic and Healthy Birth Weights Initiative.
- To support the implementation and enforcement of the "new" Smoke-Free Ontario Act Regulatory Amendments announced by the Ontario Government on November 7, 2014, the MOHLTC will consider additional extraordinary expenses borne by Boards of Health to respond to complaints and is providing Boards of Health with the opportunity to request additional funding to support expanded enforcement efforts during the 2015 operating year.
- Effective January 1, 2015, it is illegal to smoke on bar and restaurant patios, smoke on playgrounds and public sports fields and surfaces, and sell tobacco on university and college campuses.
- As per the 2015 Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy: Public Health Unit Tobacco Control Program Guidelines and the Directives: Enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (January 2015) beginning January 1, 2015, Boards of Health are required to

conduct inspections in response to all complaints received under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act on bar and restaurant patios, playgrounds, public sports fields and surfaces.

- The deadline for submitting the 2015 Program-Based Grants (and other supporting documentation) to the MOHLTC is February 27, 2015. This includes one-time funding requests for the 2015 operating year.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

No policy implications.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Legal Services and Finance will be engaged in the review of the TPA with the MOHLTC.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

(Include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data if applicable)

PHS proposes to apply to the MOHLTC for one-time funding requests (at 100%) in 2015 for each of the NRT and the additional extraordinary expenses borne by the Boards of Health in responding to the “new” Smoke-Free Ontario Act Regulatory Amendments in order to offset the increased operating costs incurred for these two program and service areas.

A request of \$25,000 for NRT was determined based on a review and analysis of PHS’ smoking cessation programs and services through which NRT is distributed. The goal of securing this one-time funding is to provide increased access and utilization of smoking cessation interventions for priority populations. PHS’ Smoking Cessation Clinic schedules in excess of 700 client appointments annually.

A request of \$20,000 for additional extraordinary expenses related to Smoke-Free Ontario Act enforcement was determined based on a review and analysis of year-over-year staff overtime and travel expenditures. A forecast based on prior years’ spending in these areas was used to project the potential costs associated with the expanded enforcement responsibilities resulting from the “new” Regulations. PHS conducts in excess of 1,700 Smoke-Free Ontario Act inspections and enforcement checks annually.

The two requests are designed to address the real-time costs of operating these two service components and take into account emerging trends and service delivery pressures. Should the one-time funding requests be granted, the result would be cost savings to the City of Hamilton.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

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

The Board of Health could choose not to accept the funding offered through the MOHLTC PBG One-Time Funding Requests, which would mean these resources would not be available to support the purchase of NRT nor expanded Smoke-Free Ontario Act enforcement. This would be a lost opportunity to effectively offset clinic materials' costs and staff over-time and travel expenses incurred as a result of expanded enforcement efforts in response to the "new" Regulatory Amendments.

Financial: This alternative would forego up to \$45,000 (at 100%) in funding during the current year from the MOHLTC.

Staffing: No staffing implications

Legal: A TPA with the MOHLTC specific to further one-time funding under the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy would not be required.

Policy Implications: No policy implications

Pros: No pros

Cons: Cessation clinic materials costs and staff over-time and travel expenses associated with the expanded enforcement responsibilities resulting from the "new" Regulatory Amendments to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act would need to be absorbed within existing base-budget funding provided for 2015.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #1

A Prosperous & Healthy Community

WE enhance our image, economy and well-being by demonstrating that Hamilton is a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Strategic Objective

- 1.5 Support the development and implementation of neighbourhood and City wide strategies that will improve the health and well-being of residents.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable