



Hamilton

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
DATE:	November 15, 2023
SUBJECT:	Report on Options for the City of Hamilton's Board of Health Governance (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

This Update is being provided to all members of Council to be aware of the Governance issues being discussed for local Public Health services at the upcoming Governance Review Sub-Committee and community/media interest in these matters.

Beginning in March 2021, delegations and correspondence were received in support of restructuring the Board of Health to include community representatives with health expertise and lived experience. In February 2023, and further in April 2023, Council directed Public Health Services staff to engage in a broad consultation process to identify issues and opportunities with Hamilton's current Board of Health governance structure and report back with alternate governance options and recommendations.

At the Governance Review Sub-Committee on Friday, November 17, 2023, results from the consultation and recommendations for changes to Hamilton's Board of Health governance will be discussed. A copy of the report detailing the consultation findings and recommendations is available at the following link: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=384880>. The 2023 Board of Health self-evaluation results will also be presented at this meeting, as noted in the Communication Update on October 4, 2023.

Key messages from this report include:

- **Broad Consultation:** MASS LBP, an independent public policy firm, was contracted to lead a consultation over the summer that involved a multi-pronged approach. Over 900 people from across Hamilton participated in a public survey, 50 community members attended a public meeting led by the Hamilton Anti-

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Racism Resource Centre and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, and over 60 meetings and interviews were held with Advisory Committees, community partners, healthcare professionals, and City Council members.

- **Shared Desire to Change the Structure and Membership of Hamilton's Board of Health:** Consultation participants felt that while there are merits of the current governance structure, systemic change requires decision-making to be shared between elected members of City Council and community representatives with health expertise and lived experience.
- **Recommendations:** The report recommends changing the structure and membership of the Board of Health so that it includes City Council members, community representatives, and an education representative, which will require Provincial legislative changes. In the interim, the report recommends changing the Public Health Standing Committee membership to include community representation in governance and decision-making until legislative changes are made. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario is supportive of the recommendations, subject to legislative approval.

Should you have any questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Ashley Vanderlaan, Program Manager, Planning & Competency Development, Public Health Services at (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4718 or Ashley.Vanderlaan@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable