



PUBLIC HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES PHSC 25-001

9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 13, 2025

Council Chambers (Hybrid)

71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Councillor C. Kroetsch (Chair)
K. Johnson (Vice-Chair)
Councillors C. Cassar, T. Hwang, M. Tadeson and A. Wilson
A. Adjekum (Virtual), A. Cheung, D. Danko, A. Joseph, C. Kirkby
and R. Lennox

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillor N. Nann - Personal

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair C. Kroetsch called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

There were no Ceremonial Activities.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

(Danko/Cassar)

That the agenda for the January 13, 2025, Public Health Sub-Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 December 2, 2024

(Kirkby/Lennox)

That the Minutes of the December 4, 2024, meeting of the Public Health Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

6.1 Delegation from Monica Nikopooulos respecting Water Fluoridation Effects on the Immune Compromised, Unborn, Very Young and Elderly

Monica Nikopooulos addressed Committee respecting Water Fluoridation Effects on the Immune Compromised, Unborn, Very Young and Elderly through a pre-recorded video.

(Hwang/Cassar)

That the Delegation from Monica Nikopooulos respecting Water Fluoridation Effects on the Immune Compromised, Unborn, Very Young and Elderly, be received.

CARRIED

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Correspondence from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health respecting the City of Hamilton's request for Governance Change (referred from Council on December 11, 2024)

(Hwang/Danko)

That the Correspondence from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health respecting the City of Hamilton's request for Governance Change, be received.

CARRIED

**7.2 BOH24025(a)
Public Health Sub-Committee Orientation: Session 2 (City Wide)**

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, Jordan Walker, Director, Communicable Disease Control, Julie Prieto, Director, Epidemiology and Wellness, Kevin McDonald, Healthy Environments, Bonnie King, Director, Healthy Families, Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and Monika Turner, Principal, Roving Capacity, addressed Committee respecting Report BOH24025(a), Public Health Sub-Committee Orientation: Session 2, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

(Lennox/Danko)

- (a) That the presentation from Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, Jordan Walker, Director, Communicable Disease Control, Julie Prieto, Director, Epidemiology and Wellness, Kevin McDonald, Healthy Environments, Bonnie King, Director, Healthy Families, Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and Monika Turner, Principal, Roving Capacity, respecting Report BOH24025(a), Public Health Sub-Committee Orientation: Session 2, be received;
- (b) That Report BOH24025(a) respecting Public Health Sub-Committee Orientation: Session 2, be received; and
- (c) That the Correspondence from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) respecting Registration for the 2025 alPHa Winter Symposium, be received.

CARRIED

(Hwang/Tadeson)

- (d) That A. Joseph and Councillor C. Kroetsch be selected to be the Public Health Sub-Committee's representatives at the 2025 alPHa Winter Symposium and the costs associated be reimbursed from OMOH Councillor Conference Budget (677000-56305).

CARRIED

8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no Items for Consideration.

9. MOTIONS

9.1 Amendment to the Public Health Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference

(Joseph/Kroetsch)

WHEREAS, the Public Health Sub-Committee was established by Council on January 24, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Public Health Sub-Committee Terms of Reference was amended by Council on November 13, 2024, to provide details for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Public Health Sub-Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Sub-Committee was established to implement a structural change to governance that recognized health and health equity expertise and to include members from health professions with practice knowledge within public health governance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Health Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference be **amended** to read as follows:

The Chair of the Public Health Sub-Committee shall be a member of City Council, **a community representative or the education representative.**

CARRIED

9.2 Feasibility of Implementing Wastewater Surveillance

(Lennox/Kroetsch)

WHEREAS, disease surveillance is a core tenant of a strong public health system, making it possible to identify and forecast threats to public health, respond quickly by deploying resources effectively, and informing policy and program development;

WHEREAS, wastewater surveillance is an accurate, effective and cost-efficient tool for monitoring community transmission of respiratory viruses and other potential public health threats, such as mpox and H5N1 (and can quickly shift to include other pathogens as needed);

WHEREAS, wastewater surveillance for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) became a mainstay of surveillance and was used to inform policy decisions on public health measures and public health risk communication pertaining to active transmission levels;

WHEREAS, when wastewater surveillance was available, Hamilton Public Health used the data to inform local health providers of mismatches occurring between signals of infectious disease transmission in wastewater data and clinically-reported cases, indicating potentially undiagnosed cases occurring in the community (e.g. mpox, 2023);

WHEREAS, the province discontinued its wastewater surveillance program on July 31, 2024;

WHEREAS, federal wastewater surveillance through the Public Health Agency of Canada is limited in scope to only four cities across Ontario;

WHEREAS, other public health units in Ontario (Peterborough and Ottawa) have opted to continue their wastewater surveillance programs in partnership with local academic institutions (Trent University); and

WHEREAS, wastewater surveillance can provide an early warning of viruses (e.g. H5N1) in a community or high-risk setting and support an early public health response.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff be directed to report back to the Public Health Sub-Committee by Q3 2025 with a report outlining the feasibility of implementing a local wastewater surveillance program, including respiratory viruses (influenza, SARS-CoV-2, RSV), mpox and H5N1.

CARRIED

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notice of Motions.

11. PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

There were no Private & Confidential Items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Public Health Sub-Committee csadjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Chair
Public Health Sub-Committee

Matt Gauthier
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk