



# INFORMATION REPORT

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| <b>TO:</b> Mayor and Member<br>Board of Health  | <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE                                   |
| <b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> October 15, 2012   |  |
| <b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b><br>Creating Access to Screening and Training in the Living Environment (CASTLE) Project<br>(BOH12026) (City Wide) |  |
| <b>SUBMITTED BY:</b><br>Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC<br>Medical Officer of Health<br>Public Health Services Department             | <b>PREPARED BY:</b><br>Faye Parascandalo<br>(905) 546-2424 Ext. 5022 |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>   |  |

**Council Direction:**

N/A

**Information:**

The Creating Access to Screening and Training in the Living Environment (CASTLE) project is a collaborative effort among several health units including City of Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS), Brant County Health Unit, Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, Halton Region Health Department and Niagara Region Public Health, in collaboration with McMaster and Brock Universities. The project is being led by Public Health Nurses (PHNs) from the City of Hamilton, PHS, Healthy Living Division, Chronic Disease Prevention Program.

Community-based project funding through the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has been awarded in the amount of \$912,341 for the duration of two years. Project funding will be administered by McMaster University's School of Nursing and will be distributed across the participating health units to support the program intervention.

The goal of the project is to promote cancer screening participation for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer within low-income communities. The project will reduce the barriers (to cancer screening participation) that exist within these communities by directly assessing and addressing challenges.

The objectives of the project are:

- To build capacity of community partners
- To increase cancer screening awareness
- To increase uptake of cancer screening
- To sustain the project

The project region represents many diverse communities with unique characteristics; however, common to all areas within the geographic region is the existence of low-income housing communities. Income, employment, education and literacy, culture, physical and social environments, access to health services, and health practices are well known determinants that influence overall health. For all three recommended screening programs, cancer screening rates for the Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand Norfolk (HNHB) Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) are lower in groups who have lower socio-economic status:

- Rates for breast cancer screening range from 53% for low income neighbourhoods to 62% for higher income neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>.
- Pap test rates range from 61% to 71% for low to higher income neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>.
- The lowest screening rates are for Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) ranging from approximately 12% for low income neighbourhoods to 16% for higher income neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>.

The goal of Ontario's integrated cancer screening programs is to have all eligible individuals that meet the screening guidelines regularly participate in cancer screening. Regular participation in cancer screening can reduce morbidity and improve treatment options and significantly decreases mortality rates.

The CASTLE project will use a multi-sectoral network across the region that encourages grassroots community development and engagement. The project will consist of a comprehensive strategy that will include targeted interventions, skill development, training, communication, evaluation, and social media to increase cancer screening. Utilizing a peer-to-peer model, community health workers and volunteers, called cancer screening

ambassadors, will be trained in order to build community capacity within the priority population.

Presently the CASTLE project is engaging residents through local planning teams in the McQuesten, South Sherman, and Crown Point neighbourhoods. Project results and sustainability plans will be provided to Council after the project ends in March 2014.

### **References:**

<sup>1</sup> Krzyzanowska, M. K., Barbera, L., Elit, L., Kwon, J., Lofters, A., Saskin, R. et al..(2009). Cancer. In: Bierman A.S. (Ed.), Project for an Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report: Volume 1: Toronto; 2009 (CH 4). Retrieved from: [http://www.powerstudy.ca/webfm\\_send/60](http://www.powerstudy.ca/webfm_send/60).