To: Mayor and Members
Board of Health

From: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, MRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services

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Date: October 4, 2007

Re: 2007 Funding for Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs BOH07050 (City Wide)

Council Direction:

Council approved Public Health Services’ budget in April of this year. This brief report provides context for the recent grant approval from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Information:

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has approved the City of Hamilton Public Health Services’ 2007 Program Based Grant request for mandatory and related public health programs (Appendix A).

The 2007 grant allocation includes mandatory public health programs funded provincially at 75% as well as West Nile Virus (75%), Infectious Disease Control (100%) and Public Health Research and Education Development (PHRED – 50%).

Since 1999, funding on mandatory public health programs from MOHLTC was cost shared with municipalities on a 50/50 formula. Effective in 2005, the province announced a commitment to increase its share in provincial share funding on a graduated basis moving to 75% funding in 2007. With this shift in funding, MOHLTC also provided 5% capped growth for these program budgets.

Although overall provincial funding may have increased province wide by over 90%, this includes the funding shift through these years as well as one time funding and new program funding initiatives such as West Nile Virus and Infectious Disease Control. Thus, this amount does not solely represent increased operating budgets for health units but rather a combined total of all of these items throughout these years.

From 2005 through 2007, Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) subsidies have increased by $6.5m while at the same time, approximately $4.7m has been returned to the City of Hamilton.
levy. In addition, these investments in public health have allowed PHS budget increases for cost of living and program enhancements that have averaged 4% each year.

It is anticipated the 5% cap will continue for 2008 but the province has not formally announced their budgetary guidelines.

Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services
AUG 29 2007

Mr. Fred Eisenberger
Chair, City of Hamilton Board of Health
71 Main Street West
City Hall, 1st Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the McGuinty government my gratitude for your work in advancing Ontario’s vital public health system.

I am pleased to advise you that in 2007 the province is providing the City of Hamilton Board of Health with $21,646,498 for the provision of mandatory and related public health programs and services in your community. By way of contrast, in 2003, before the McGuinty government’s investments in public health began, funding for the City of Hamilton Board of Health was $11,994,185.

This government is committed to ensuring the best possible use of our health care resources so we may build a stronger and more accountable public health system. This year we increased the provincial share of funding for eligible public health costs to 75%, up from 50% in 2004 and provided an up to 5% increase in growth funding for mandatory programs. As well, the government continues to provide 100% funding for other public health programs such as infectious disease control and childhood vaccines.

Over the past few years, our government has made significant investments to support the revitalization of the public health system. Funding from both the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion to public health units for mandatory and related programs has increased since 2003 by over 90% to $502.6 million in 2007.
Mr. Eisenberger

As you are aware, the draft Ontario Public Health Standards have been submitted for government review and approval. It is anticipated that the Standards, as published under Section 7 of the Health Protection and Promotion Act, along with supporting protocols will be released the Winter/Spring of 2008.

As you may know, the Health System Improvements Act, 2007 has recently passed. Among other initiatives, this legislation allows for the creation of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. The Agency will provide scientific and technical support and advice to government, public health units and health care providers. The Agency, at the direction of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, will also provide support in responding to health related emergencies and outbreaks.

You will receive correspondence shortly from Dr. George Pasut, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A) and Ruth Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Public Health Division that will include further information regarding your 2007 allocations for mandatory and related programs.

In closing, I extend to you and your staff my appreciation for the important work you do to protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

Yours truly,

George Smitherman
Minister

c: Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
   Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services
   Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
   Ted McMeekin, MPP (Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot)
   Gerry Martiniuk, MPP (Cambridge)
   Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton East)
   Hon. Marie Bountrogianni, MPP (Hamilton Mountain)
   Judy Marsales, MPP (Hamilton West)
   Jennifer F. Mossop, MPP (Stoney Creek)
   Jim Brownell, MPP (Stormont-Dundas-Charlottetown)
   Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton – Public Health and Social Services
   Vance Blackmore, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
   Dr. Garry Aslanyan, President, Ontario Public Health Association
   Doug Reycraft, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario