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### **AGREEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITIES REGARDING COMMUNITY MEDICINE RESIDENTS**

**The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report, January 24, 2008, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:**

#### **1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council authorize the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to execute agreements with universities for the placement of community medicine residents in the Public Health Branch of the Community and Health Services Department, subject to review by Legal Services.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

This report seeks authorization for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to enter into agreements with universities to accept short-term placements of community medicine residents in the Public Health Branch for training purposes.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

Community medicine residents are licensed physicians who have graduated from an accredited medical school and hold a medical degree. As residents, they undertake five years of post-graduate training in order to qualify for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certification in community medicine. This five-year training course involves a variety of three-month rotations through clinic, academic, and field placements, including required placements in public health units under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

On September 18, 2003, Regional Council authorized the Health Services Department to enter into agreements with colleges and universities for the placement of students in the Health Services Department to provide these students with clinical and/or practical experience. This authorization, however, does not extend to community medicine residents.

#### **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

##### **4.1 Placement of community medicine residents offers advantages for both medical residents and York Region**

Agreements with universities for the placement of community medicine residents in the Public Health Branch offer advantages for medical residents as well as for York Region. Through these placements, community medicine residents will have the opportunity to receive applied training from leaders in public health. York Region staff are active in leading-edge public health initiatives. Both the Medical Officer of Health and the Associate Medical Officer of Health for York Region are Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and have honorary academic university appointments.

The Public Health Branch will benefit from the fresh perspectives, up-to-date expertise, and insights of emerging leaders in public health. As there is a Canada-wide shortage of public health specialists and medical officers of health, it is also to the Region's benefit to help develop qualified health care professionals who may potentially decide to practice in York Region.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no cost to The Regional Municipality of York related to the execution or implementation of the agreements with universities related to placements of community medicine residents. In addition, community medicine residents will not be employees of the Region.

#### **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

Local municipalities will benefit from the expertise of community medicine residents, who will be actively engaged in addressing and resolving local public health issues. Placements of community medicine residents in the Public Health Branch will also provide a longer-term benefit to local municipalities, in the training of qualified health care professionals.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute agreements with universities for the placement of community medicine residents in the Public Health Branch. Placements will provide medical residents with an opportunity to obtain practical public health experience and will also

allow York Region to benefit from the up-to-date expertise of recently trained public health specialists.

For more information on this report, please contact Dr. Karim Kurji, Ext. 4012, Medical Officer of Health and Director of Public Health Programs, of the Community and Health Services Department.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.