

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

**REPORT NO. 2
OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

**For Consideration by
The Council of The Regional Municipality of York
on June 23, 2005**

**1
ONTARIO TOBACCO STRATEGY
BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Committee and Council approve the receipt and expenditure of \$75,000, a 100% one-time grant, from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) related to the Ontario Tobacco Strategy Planning and Start-up objectives.
2. Committee and Council approve the receipt and expenditure of \$300,000, a 100% funded grant, from the MOHLTC related to the Ontario Tobacco Strategy for Tobacco Policy, Promotion and Enforcement in York Region.
3. Committee and Council approve the receipt and expenditure of \$5,000, a 100% funded grant, from the MOHLTC related to the Ontario Tobacco Strategy for Grants to High Schools in York Region.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform Committee and Council regarding the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs.
- Outline the impact of the proposed *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* on York Region.

- Seek the approval to receive and expend 100% funded grants offered by the MOHLTC for Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs to implement these strategies.

3. BACKGROUND

In December 2004, the MOHLTC announced its Ontario Tobacco Strategy and the role Public Health Units would undertake in its implementation.

The goal of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy is to eliminate tobacco related illness and death by:

- Eliminating involuntary exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.
- Preventing smoking initiation and habitual use among children and young adults.
- Reducing smoking in Ontario.

As part of this strategy, the MOHLTC has provided a number of grants to health units. On December 29, 2004 a letter was sent from the MOHLTC outlining the estimated allocations for York Region Health Services for Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs (*see Attachment 1*). These 100% MOHLTC funded grants included:

- Up to \$75,000 for Planning and Start-up.
- Up to \$300,000 for Policy, Promotion and Enforcement.
- Up to \$1,000 per high school for Grants to High Schools.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

The MOHLTC has undertaken a number of key initiatives in support of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy goals including:

- Bill 164 - the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (December 15, 2004), an act to rename and amend the *Ontario Tobacco Control Act (TCA), 1994* repealing the *Smoking in the Workplace Act* and making complementary amendments to other acts to make all public places and workplaces in Ontario smoke-free, restrict the access to tobacco by youth and regulate the display of tobacco products.
- Enacting the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* on June 13, 2005. The Act is scheduled to come into force on May 31, 2006, World No Tobacco Day.
- Enhancing existing successful tobacco control programs and funding new programs through a number of 100% funded grants to permit all Ontario public health units to have the program infrastructure in place to enforce the new legislation once it is enacted.

- Supporting six Lead Public Health Departments (LPHDs) to assist in strategic planning, communication and collaboration. These six LPHDs will be responsible for facilitating communication, developing a regional plan and collaborating with stakeholders. The LPHD for central east health units, which includes York Region, is Simcoe County District Health Unit.

4.1 Smoke-Free Ontario Act

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* will amend and rename the TCA and replace the *Smoking in the Workplace Act*, along with municipal no-smoking by-laws. This new act will prohibit smoking in public places and workplaces, restrict access to tobacco by youth and regulate the display of tobacco products.

Highlights of the proposed provisions of the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* and their impact on York Region include:

- Workplaces will be smoke-free with no exemptions for DSRs (this is consistent with the By-law).
- Public places will be smoke-free with no exemptions for DSRs or private clubs, including legions (the By-law currently permits smoking in DSRs and private clubs). Currently, York Region has approximately 110 establishments with DSRs, two private clubs and seven legions.
- Employers in workplaces and owners of public places are required to prohibit smoking in their establishments, notify smokers that smoking is prohibited, post required signs and prohibit ashtrays (this is consistent with the By-law).
- Ban the counter top display of tobacco products in a retail store (this is new legislation and will impact approximately 950 York Region tobacco vendors).
- Regulate the display of tobacco products in what is commonly referred to as “power walls”. This will reduce/eliminate the volume of tobacco products that can be displayed. The Supreme Court of Canada recently overturned a challenge to similar legislation in Saskatchewan clearing the way for this to proceed in Ontario. (This is new legislation and will impact on approximately 950 York Region tobacco vendors.)
- Prohibit the sale/provision of tobacco to anyone under the age of 19 (this is consistent with the current TCA).
- Require tobacco vendors to request identification for anyone who appears to be the age of 25 or younger (current TCA requires asking for identification for anyone who appears to be under the age of 19).

4.2 Basic Public Health Department Grants

The following section outlines in more detail each of the three 100% MOHLTC funded grants that have been allocated to York Region Health Services.

4.2.1 Planning and Startup

York Region Health Services was allocated \$75,000 for the period of January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 in a one-time grant. The MOHLTC proposed that these funds be utilized to conduct an inventory of the locations of tobacco retailers, along with public

places and workplaces affected by the proposed provincial legislation, participate in area strategic planning meetings and prepare workplans of tobacco control activities. York Region Health Services, through its established Tobacco Education and Control Program, has a head start on meeting the objectives as required. The additional funds will be utilized to enhance the team's work in these areas through recruitment of additional temporary Tobacco Control Officers.

4.2.2 Policy Promotion and Enforcement

York Region Health Services was allocated \$300,000 for the period of January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, to help raise awareness of the need for tobacco control policy initiatives in York Region. Funding was based upon population, size of geographic area and level of enforcement activity to be undertaken.

The MOHLTC has proposed that these funds be utilized to conduct policy promotion and enforcement activities including: increase school smoke-free policy enforcement, increase enforcement of local no-smoking by-laws, educate the public and key public opinion leaders about the need for province-wide tobacco control laws and policy initiatives, and conduct quarterly compliance checks to each tobacco retailer to prevent illegal sales to minors. This latter requirement is considerably more stringent than the past MOHLTC requirement of an annual random visit to 10% of the tobacco retailers, which has constituted 95 compliance checks per year in York Region. The impact of the increased frequency of quarterly compliance checks required under the Ontario Tobacco Strategy translates to 3800 visits annually to the approximate 950 tobacco retailers in York Region. Although education and promotion remain key focal points of the Tobacco Education and Control Program, enforcement activities are required to sustain the intent of the legislation and maintain the high level of compliance.

The enhancement funds provided by the MOHLTC will enable the department to hire an additional temporary manager as required by the MOHLTC for awards greater than \$100,000 to focus on a tobacco strategy program. The existing Manager, Tobacco Education and Control, will focus on all legislative requirements for tobacco control, while the new manager will carry responsibility for all other areas of tobacco program development.

4.2.3 Grants to High Schools

York Region Health Services submitted a request for \$5,000 and has been awarded this amount for utilization between April 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005 to support student initiated tobacco control projects in five high schools. York Region Health Services will be responsible for soliciting, approving and managing the local high school grants based on an evaluation process developed internally and approved by MOHLTC.

4.3 Relationship to Vision 2026

The implementation of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs support Vision 2026 by making York Region a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for those who live, work and visit here.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The following table outlines the costs associated with the provision of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy Basic Health Department Programs.

Table 1
Ontario Tobacco Strategy – Basic Health Department Programs
January – December 2005

	Planning & Start-up Costs	Policy Promotion & Enforcement	Grants to High Schools	Total Tobacco Strategy
Salaries & Benefits	\$62,984	\$199,900	-	\$262,884
Mileage, Printing, Training & Supplies	2,679	32,306	\$5,000	39,985
Furniture/Computer Equipment	-	15,340	-	15,340
Software	-	3,080	-	3,080
Administrative & Corporate Support Costs	9,337	49,374	-	58,711
Total Gross Expenditures	\$75,000	\$300,000	\$5,000	\$380,000
100% Provincial Funding	75,000	300,000	5,000	380,000
Total Net Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The salaries and benefits cover the costs of hiring 1.0 FTE temporary full-time manager, 3.0 FTE temporary full-time officers and 0.5 FTE temporary part-time clerical support.

The funding for the Basic Public Health Department Programs is confirmed to the end of 2005 and an announcement from the MOHLTC is expected to extend the funding into future years. However, should funding not be extended beyond December 2005, all temporary assignments identified within this report will end effective December 31, 2005. The Planning and Start-up Costs will remain as one-time grants.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

All municipalities will benefit from the implementation of the strategies outlined in the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs. People throughout York Region will benefit by reduced exposure to second-hand smoke and increased access to information and services to help those who want to quit smoking. Children and young adults will benefit from strategies to limit the access to tobacco and reduce the urge to start smoking.

7. CONCLUSION

The Ontario Tobacco Strategy and proposed *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* are vital initiatives in creating a smoke-free Ontario. The implementation of these strategies will improve the health all of Ontarians, and specifically the health of residents of York Region, by reducing the effects of second-hand smoke, reducing the access to tobacco products by youth and helping those who want to quit smoking. York Region's leadership in promoting and ensuring smoke-free environments in workplaces and public places will be enhanced by the funding which has been allocated to York Region Health Services for Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Basic Public Health Department Programs.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is attached to this report.)

Respectfully submitted,

**June 21, 2005
Newmarket, Ontario**

**Helena Jaczek
Commissioner of Health Services**

(Report No. 2 of the Commissioner of Health was adopted, without amendment, by Regional Council at its meeting held on June 23, 2005.)

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December 29, 2004

Dr. Helena Jaczek
Medical Officer of Health
York Region Health Services Department
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON
L3Y 6Z1

Dear: Dr. Helena Jaczek

My staff and I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the Ontario Tobacco Strategy and your important role in the expansion. As promised, we are sending you the estimated allocations for your Health Department for Basic Health Department Programs. These awards will be made upon successful completion of the application process. The estimated award amounts follow.

Planning and Start-up	up to \$ 75,000.00
Policy Promotion and Enforcement (January through March 31, 2005)	up to \$300,000.00 per year up to \$ 75,000.00)

Policy Promotion and Enforcement grant amounts do not include dollars for grants to high schools, Worksite Innovations, Innovative Smoking Intervention Programs, and Youth Action Alliances which are competitive. These additional grants will be made based upon the criteria such as the quality of the submission and the need for the program.

Please note that Basic Public Health Departments, Worksite Innovations, Innovative Smoking Intervention Programs, and Youth Action Alliance require separate submissions. Each package must include:

- a cover page ;
- answers to the questions;
- a work plan for the first quarter of your fiscal year;
- a budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year;
- a 12 month budget.

All applications must be submitted by **January 14, 2005**, with the exception of the Youth Action Alliance Application which is due by January 21, 2005.

We look forward to receiving your submissions to working with you on the development and implementation of a state-of-art tobacco control program.

Sincerely,

John M. Garcia, M.Sc.

Director

Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch