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PROVINCIAL FUNDING SUPPORTING SMOKE-FREE BY-LAWS IN ONTARIO

The Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee recommends that:

- 1. A letter be sent to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care expressing appreciation for the funding for this project and to encourage the Province to show leadership by enacting provincial legislation banning smoking in public places.**
- 2. That the recommendations contained in the following report, August 26, 2004, from the Commissioner of Health Services be adopted.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Health Services Department receive and expend 100% provincial funding of \$65,000 from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) supporting smoke-free by-laws in Ontario provided through the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA).
2. The Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health be given authority to execute a Letter of Agreement (*see Attachment 1*) with alPHA to receive and expend these funds on the terms and conditions set out in the Letter of Agreement.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to expend one-time funding from the MOHLTC supporting smoke-free by-laws in Ontario and to outline how the funds will be utilized to support York Region No-Smoking By-law enforcement activities.

3. BACKGROUND

Following lengthy discussions with the MOHLTC, alPHA, the Ontario Campaign for Action on Tobacco (OCAT) and the Program Training and Consultation Centre (PTCC) jointly submitted a funding proposal to the MOHLTC for tobacco by-law enforcement in May 2004. The proposal was entitled Supporting Smoke-Free By-laws in Ontario Project. The focus of the proposal was to enhance the enforcement of no-smoking by-laws moving into implementation or moving into another phase of implementation in Ontario between May 31, 2004 and September 5, 2004. Health units who met this criteria were asked by alPHA, OCAT and PTCC to complete a questionnaire regarding their enforcement needs for consideration for funding. Some health units were only beginning the implementation and enforcement of their no-smoking by-laws, while other health units, like York Region, were entering into critical and final phases of their

enforcement initiatives. York Region Health Services submitted an assessment of its enforcement needs on May 18, 2004, based on the implementation of Phase III of the York Region No-Smoking By-law on June 1, 2004.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

A total of \$1,325,000 was awarded by the MOHLTC to the alPHA, OCAT and PTCC group for the Supporting Smoke-Free By-laws in Ontario Project. Of the total funding envelope, \$411,440 was ear-marked for training in by-law enforcement, development of a secure website for information sharing, weekly teleconferences and administration.

The remaining \$913,560 has been divided up by alPHA among the 18 health units who met the criteria and submitted an assessment of their enforcement needs. York Region Health Services received an allocation of \$65,000 as a result of an allocation process determined by alPHA.

The monies must be expended by March 31, 2005. York Region Health Services intends to utilize the funds in the fall and winter of 2004/2005 when it is anticipated that the closure of patios, and the colder weather may result in an increased York Region No-Smoking By-law enforcement workload.

The plan is to hire a temporary full-time Tobacco Control Officer for 26 weeks, extend the hours of the permanent part-time Administrative-Clerk in the program by one day per week, and provide for additional hours for the permanent part-time Tobacco Control Officer and/or overtime for Tobacco Control Officers in the team. Additional costs for mileage, meals and potential additional car rentals are also included. Car rentals are generally utilized for surveillance work in order to protect the safety of York Region's Tobacco Control Officers. There have been instances in other regions where proprietors have vandalized vehicles and/or tracked vehicles to employees' homes.

4.1 Relationship to Vision 2026

This additional support for the enforcement of Phase III of the York Region No-Smoking By-law will reinforce current efforts to make York Region a cleaner, safer and healthier environment for those who live, work and visit here.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 1 outlines the allocation of the 100% provincially funded \$65,000 towards York Region No-Smoking By-law enforcement activities. These funds will not be able to defer costs of the Constitutional Challenge now estimated at \$200,000.

Table 1
2004/2005 Budget for Additional 100% Funds for NSBL Activities

NSBL Activities	Additional Funds (excluding GST)
Additional Salaries	\$41,500
Overtime	12,050
Mileage/Meals	8,200
Car Rental	3,250
Total	\$65,000*

* All administrative and allocation costs are not included in this total and will be absorbed in the cost shared budget for 2004 and 2005.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

All area municipalities will benefit from increased enforcement activities of Phase III of the York Region No-Smoking By-law. The more consistently this by-law can be enforced, the more level the playing field will be for businesses across York Region, and the fewer residents will be exposed to second-hand smoke.

7. CONCLUSION

The MOHLTC favourably responded to a funding proposal submitted by alPHa, OCAT and PTCC for funding of the Supporting Smoke-Free By-Laws in Ontario Project. York Region Health Services has received an allocation of \$65,000 of the funding envelope to enhance Phase III York Region No-Smoking By-law enforcement activities.

It is recommended that the Commissioner of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health be given the authority to execute a Letter of Agreement with alPHa to receive and expend these funds.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Regional Clerk's office.)