

November 16, 2009

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

From: Board of Health

Subject: The Affordability of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto - 2009
Board of Health Item HL26.2

The Toronto Board of Health on November 16, 2009, amongst other things, forwarded the report (November 3, 2009) from the Medical Officer of Health, entitled "The Affordability of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto - 2009", for support and action, as appropriate, to the following key stakeholders: the City of Toronto's Community Development and Recreation Committee; the General Managers of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Children's Services, Employment and Social Services, Long-term Care Homes and Services, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation; the Ontario Ministers of Health Promotion, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion; the Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion at Health Canada; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies; the Ontario Public Health Association; Ontario Boards of Health; the Association of Ontario Health Centres; the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health and Dietitians of Canada.

Decision Advice and Other Information:

The Toronto Board of Health on November 16, 2009, directed that:

1. The provincial government be requested to raise social assistance rates based on the real cost of healthy living, including nutritious food, and indexed annually to reflect inflation.
2. The Chair of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health, together with the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and representatives from the "Do the Math" Campaign and the "Put Food in the Budget" Campaign, be requested to meet with the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Minister of Children and Youth Services and the Minister of Health Promotion, to urge them to ensure access to safe, nutritious and culturally-acceptable food for all Ontarians and to link the results of the Nutritious Food Basket survey across Ontario with the implementation of Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy and the ongoing review of social assistance, in accordance with the consultation requirements noted in the Poverty Reduction Act (2009).
3. The Chair of the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health request that the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Director of Surveillance and Epidemiology of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP)



explore the development of a long-term system to monitor access to safe, nutritious and culturally-acceptable food.

4. This report be forwarded, for support and action, as appropriate, to the following key stakeholders: the City of Toronto's Community Development and Recreation Committee; the General Managers of Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, Children's Services, Employment and Social Services, Long-term Care Homes and Services, and Parks, Forestry and Recreation; the Ontario Ministers of Health Promotion, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; the Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion; the Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion at Health Canada; the Association of Local Public Health Agencies; the Ontario Public Health Association; Ontario Boards of Health; the Association of Ontario Health Centres; the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health and Dietitians of Canada.
5. The recommendations from Jonah Schein, STOP Community Food Centre, be referred to the Medical Officer of Health for consideration in the advocacy efforts he is engaged in with partners working on anti-poverty strategies.

Background:

The Toronto Board of Health on November 16, 2009, considered a report (November 3, 2009) from the Medical Officer of Health, entitled "The Affordability of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto - 2009".

Background Information:

HL26.2 - The Affordability of the Nutritious Food Basket in Toronto - 2009 - Staff Report (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-25078.pdf>)

Communications

(November 16, 2009) Submission from Jonah Schein, Civic Engagement Coordinator, STOP Community Food Centre (HL.New.HL26.2.1)

Speakers

Jonah Schein, Civic Engagement Coordinator, STOP Community Food Centre (Submission Filed)
Councillor Adam Vaughan, Ward 20 - Trinity-Spadina

Secretary,
Board of Health

C. Davidovits/gs
Item HL26.2

Attachment

- c. Medical Officer of Health

