

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Tuesday, January 23, 2018				Report Date	Wednesday, January 17, 2018			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE - Support for AMO and County of Renfrew re: Boards of Health									
Report #23/01/18 - 1104									

Subject: Change from Local to Regional Boards of Health

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following recommendation supporting the position of the County of Renfrew in requesting that the province support the position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario re: Boards of Health.

WHEREAS, the Township of Head, Clara and Maria received the report of the Minister's Expert Panel on Public Health: "Public Health within an Integrated Health System"; and

WHEREAS, the Council for the Township of Head, Clara and Maria has significant concerns regarding the recommendations of the Expert Panel to integrate a population health approach into local planning and service delivery; and

WHEREAS, there is an apparent lack of empirical evidence base upon which the recommendations are founded; and

WHEREAS, the current mandate of public health to prevent disease, protect, and promote health should remain unchanged; and

WHEREAS, public health must remain distinct from acute care health services and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) in terms of role, funding, governance, and accountability in order for public health to focus on a more upstream approach, the causes of poor health or the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the important linkages with local communities for programming, understanding local needs, and leveraging these partnerships will be undermined; and

WHEREAS, regionalization of public health units with centralized decision-making will have significant negative consequences for local public health and municipalities:

- Less municipal representation (400 Board of Health members reduced to approximately 180) and loss of local voice in governing and directing public health programs and services to understand and meet the needs of our communities;
- Substantial delays in responding to local program and service needs especially during emergencies;
- Adding another layer of bureaucracy resulting in increased costs and inefficiencies;
- Governance structure will not be flexible enough to meet/adjust/respond to local needs and negatively impact vulnerable priority populations;

- Potential loss of important local services fundamental to day-to-day public health unit operations and efficiencies (i.e., corporate services, finance, planning and evaluation, communications, information technology, etc.);
- Key positions (chair, vice-chair, finance, etc.) on regional boards of health should not be appointed Orders in Council to avoid political influence/interference; and

WHEREAS, the current cost-shared provincial/municipal funding formula (75%-25%) will not support the implementation of the proposed recommendations; and

WHEREAS, LHIN boundaries should be reconfigured to align with municipal, local public health, education, and social service boundaries to support their relationships with local public health and population health and health care system planning; and

WHEREAS public health can be integrated into the health care system without the significant system disruption, enormous cost, and risk of eroding community valued Public Health programs and services that would result with implementation of the Expert Panel's recommendations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Head, Clara and Maria does not support the recommendations of the Expert Panel and is in agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) urging the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Dr. Eric Hoskins, not to adopt them.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Supporting information was provided for the December meeting.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: - none

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith