
DATE: May 12, 2009

REPORT TITLE: **APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services
David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC, Medical Officer of Health

RECOMMENDATION

That Regional Council seek the approval of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for the designation of Dr. Kathleen Dooling as Associate Medical Officer of Health, as required by s.64(c), *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- After a vacancy of several years, the remaining Associate Medical Officer of Health position has been filled.
- In order to exercise statutory authorities, this physician must be designated as an Associate Medical Officer of Health by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, in accordance with s.64(c), *Health Protection and Promotion Act*.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The delivery of public health programs requires the services of a variety of professional staff, including registered nurses, physicians, certified public health inspectors, nutritionists, epidemiologists, health promotion specialists, dental health professionals, and others. The current approved complement for physicians is 1.0 FTE Medical Officer of Health and 2.5 FTE Associate Medical Officers of Health (AMOHs). One FTE AMOH position has been vacant since 2006.

In order to address unmet needs, Peel Health has been attempting to recruit additional public health physicians for several years in the face of a severe shortage of qualified individuals, which has seen many positions in public health departments across Ontario go vacant. Peel Health was fortunate recently to recruit a well qualified individual to complete the approved complement.

Dr. Kathleen Dooling received her MD from Memorial University of Newfoundland, a Masters of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University, and recently completed the requirements for the Fellowship in Community Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (the specialist designation in public health received after a five year training program). Her appointment will be effective on July 2, 2009.

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Dr. Dooling possesses the qualifications and requirements presented by the regulations under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, s.64 (a) and (b). Under s.64(c), the approval of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care is required in order that she may be designated as an Associate Medical Officer of Health and exercise the powers accorded to an AMOH under the *Act*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recruitment of an additional public health physician has been carried out within the approved 2009 budget and complement.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Dr. Kathleen Dooling be appointed as an Associate Medical Officer of Health, and that the concurrence of the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care be requested.



Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services



David L. Mowat, MBChB, MPH, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

DS Jun 03/09

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