
DATE: December 16, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR THE SAFE WATER PROGRAM**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services
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OBJECTIVE

To inform Regional Council of one-time funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support delivery of the Safe Water program provided by Peel Public Health.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is providing 100 per cent one-time funding of up to \$100,000 to support the delivery of the Safe Water program.
- The Safe Water program is an Ontario Public Health Standard related to drinking and recreational water use.
- Planned enhancements to the Safe Water program include equipment and supplies, staff training, public education materials, and one 4-month contract position.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is offering 100 percent one-time funding of up to \$100,000 to support the delivery of the Safe Water program in the Region of Peel.

The Safe Water program is one of many public health programs in the Ontario Public Health Standards. The goals of this particular program include the prevention or reduction of illnesses related to drinking water and illnesses and injuries associated with recreational water use (e.g. public swimming pools and spas, beaches). The standards specify desired outcomes, and assessment and surveillance activities for this program.

The funding specifies that the activities or projects undertaken must be used to increase current capacity to meet the requirements of the Safe Water program standard. All funds must be fully expensed by March 31, 2011.

2. Direction

Implementation of the small drinking water system risk assessment and inspection program is ahead of schedule, although one additional contract position retained with the enhanced funding will permit final directives pursuant to O. Reg. 318/08 (Transitional – Small Drinking

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Water Systems) and O. Reg. 319/08 (Small Drinking Water Systems) to system owners/operators being issued sooner.

Additional equipment and supplies to enhance water quality testing capabilities are also planned, as is staff training related to aspects of the Safe Water program (e.g. water chemistry, water treatment systems).

An implementation plan outlining planned expenditures was approved by the MOHLTC:

Safe Water equipment and supplies	\$30,310
Staff training	15,000
Public educational materials and supplies	2,000
One 4-month contract position	20,000
TOTAL	\$67,310

\$100,000 was transferred from the MOHLTC to the Region of Peel on November 19, 2010. A separate cost centre was set up to account for expenditures against the one-time funding and to facilitate reconciliation after March 31, 2011 and return of the unused funding to the MOHLTC.

CONCLUSION

100 per cent one-time funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to support the delivery of the Safe Water program has been received and will be used judiciously to enhance program delivery.



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Commissioner of Health Services



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Approved for Submission:


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