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For Information

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DATE: December 20, 2010

REPORT TITLE: **ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR THE FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM**

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

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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 Food Safety 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 \$143,310 to support the delivery of the Food Safety program.
- The Food Safety program is an Ontario Public Health Standard, the goal of which is to prevent or reduce food-borne illness.
- Planned enhancements to the Food Safety program during the first quarter of 2011 include: additional inspections of institutional food service facilities, more food handler training and certification courses, development of a home food safety educational program, and research on increasing our effectiveness in providing service to a culturally diverse population.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Background**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is offering 100 per cent one-time funding of up to \$143,310 to augment Peel Public Health's current capacity to deliver the Food Safety program.

The Food Safety program is one of many public health programs in the Ontario Public Health Standards, 2008. The goal of this program is to prevent or reduce the burden of food-borne illness. The Ontario Public Health Standards specify program components and requirements.

The MOHLTC specifies that this funding must be used to increase current capacity to meet the requirements of the Food Safety program standard. All funds must be fully expensed by March 31, 2011.

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**ONE-TIME FUNDING FOR THE FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM****2. Direction**

An implementation plan outlining the following enhancements to the Peel Food Safety program and expected outcomes was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on December 17, 2010. Staff will implement the plan upon Ministry approval and transfer of the funding.

<b>Program Enhancement</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>
Increased inspections of long term care homes, hospital and daycare food service facilities during the first quarter of 2011	192 additional inspections
Increase in food handler training courses provided in the first quarter of 2011	250 additional trained and certified food handlers
Development of a home food safety education program	Educational materials and communication strategy
Conceptual model to define issues related to effective food safety interventions in culturally diverse communities	Draft conceptual model and research plan

The anticipated cost of these activities is: salary and benefits for 4.4 FTE contract staff \$117,833, equipment \$7,273, and other (travel expenses, communications support, etc.) \$18,123.

The funding announcement mentions that the enhanced funding is a component of the provincial government's response to a recommendation in Justice Haines report, "Farm to Fork: A Strategy for Meat Safety in Ontario" (2004). One of the recommendations of that report was that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care provide resources to meet the requirements of the Food Safety program. There is some indication that this one-time funding may be converted into 100 per cent ongoing funding for Food Safety program enhancements. In that event, a further report to Council will be provided.

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**CONCLUSION**

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

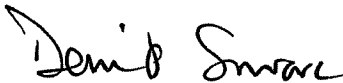


Janette Smith  
Commissioner of Health Services



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Medical Officer of Health

**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

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- c. Legislative Services  
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