

Request for Decision

Health Impact Assessment

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Feb 04, 2013
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Type:	Presentations

Recommendation

WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury adopted the Healthy Community Strategy in 2005; AND WHEREAS the Corporate Strategic Plan 2012-2014 "Shaping Our City's Future" identified Healthy Community as a priority of the City of Greater Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS the incorporation of a health impact assessment tool into City decision making for large scale projects and initiatives was identified as an action item within the Healthy Community priority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the City of Greater Sudbury authorize staff to develop a draft Health Impact Assessment tool and report back to the Standing Committee in June of 2013.

Background

In 2004, Council of the City of Greater Sudbury acknowledged the need for developing a healthy community strategy. The strategy, one of the four key planning documents that guide the strategic thinking of the City was developed in 2005. Greater Sudbury City Council embraces the importance of continuing to promote Greater Sudbury as a healthy community. The continued support for the Healthy Community Initiative is identified within the City of Greater Sudbury Strategic Plan for 2012-2014. Within the Corporate Strategic Plan a number of commitments have been listed as actions which will contribute to the Healthy Community Initiative.

The need to incorporate a health impact assessment tool into the City decision making process is one of the actions the City of Greater Sudbury has committed to in order to address this priority. A health impact assessment tool would assist Council in recognizing the impacts, both positive and negative that a program, initiative or new policy would have on the community. Information provided through a health impact assessment could help to minimize the negative and enhance the positive aspects of a decision, adding value to the decision-making process and resulting in the best possible outcome for the community.

Health impact assessment tools have been developed both internationally and within Canada. Close to home, the City of Toronto developed a Public Health framework in 2008 and the Region of Peel has been

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Chris Gore
Manager of Community Partnerships
Digitally Signed Jan 24, 13

Division Review

Real Carre
Director of Leisure Services
Digitally Signed Jan 24, 13

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Jan 24, 13

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Jan 27, 13

assessing public health impacts related to land use planning since 2009. Health impact assessments can assist with the identification of potentially unexpected outcomes and help to foster a more comprehensive community understanding of the factors which contribute to health. The development of a health impact assessment process would provide City Council with a flexible tool which can assist in the decision making process. The nature of the tool would allow it to be applied to a variety of projects and initiatives. Recent and current City of Greater Sudbury projects to which a health impact assessment could be applied might include the Multi Use Recreation Complex, the bio-solid facility, the Maley Drive project or land use planning and development projects.

The development of a draft policy for a health impact assessment tool would require several steps including:

- Review of existing health impact assessment tools both nationally and internationally
- Creation of an inter-departmental staff team to review the findings and consider an appropriate model for the City of Greater Sudbury
- Participation and recommendations from members of Council related to the findings
- Development of a draft health impact assessment tool for consideration by City of Greater Sudbury Council by June 2013