

# MINUTES

County of Lambton  
Meeting for the Committee "Infrastructure & Development/Social & Health  
Services Committee"

on  
Wednesday June 15, 2005 09:00 AM  
Committee Room #1  
Chair: Joseph Dedecker

**Orders of the Day:**

**PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES SERVICES  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT/BUILDING  
SERVICES  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES  
OTHER BUSINESS**

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m on the above date.

Present: Chair J. Dedecker, Warden Patricia Davidson. Members: J. Foubister, Wm. Bilton, J. Burns, C. Ivey, D. Kirkland and T. Case. Also Mr. J. Kutyba, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services; Mr. K. Dick, General Manager, Social and Health Services; Ms. M. Roushorne, Manager, Ontario Works; Ms. L. Ross, General Manager, Corporate Services and Mr. R. G. Van Horne, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent: M. Bradley.

**PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES SERVICES**

Delegation

Representatives from URS Canada Inc., addressed the Committee regarding recommendations flowing from the Highway 402 Planning and Preliminary Design Study (Bluewater Bridge Plaza to Mandaumin Road (County Road #26)).

#1: Davidson/Ivey: That the Committee support keeping the Highway 402 interchange at County Road #30 (Exit 25 - Oil Heritage Road) open during the reconstruction of Highway 402 between Oil Heritage Road (County Road #30) and Mandaumin Road (County Road #26).

Carried.

Part A, Item 1 - Motion #6 of the Infrastructure and Development/Social and Health Services Committee Minutes dated May 18, 2005 and Motion #10 of the Lambton County Council (Open Session) Minutes dated June 1, 2005 Regarding e-Waste -

#2: Burns/Ivey: That the County work with the local e-waste recycler (Digital Friends Inc.) to provide local municipal contacts in Lambton County as an option to disposing of e-waste by landfilling.

Carried.

Part B, Item 4 - General Manager's Report

#3: Ivey/Kirkland: That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Part C, Item 2 - Funding Agreement - Canada - Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF)

#4: Foubister/Bilton: That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for the County of Lambton - Bridge Network Sustainability Project; and further,

That the appropriate By-Law be presented to County Council for its consideration.

Carried.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT/BUILDING SERVICES**

Part B, Item 4 - General Manager's Report

#5: Ivey/Foubister: That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

Carried.

Part C, Item 2 - Memorandum dated June 7, 2005 Regarding Orthophotography Renewal Project

- \* #6: Ivey/Case: That the Committee recommend to County Council that it authorize and direct staff to proceed with the letting of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain orthophotography of urban areas using ten (10) cm resolution;

That it accept this report's definition of urban areas to be included in the orthophotography RFP; and further,

That staff be directed to obtain pricing in the RFP for additional areas requested by local Municipalities as well as pricing for the entire County at ten (10) cm resolution and recommend to Council as to how such costs should be allocated.

Carried.

This portion of the meeting adjourned.

Time: 9:40 a.m.

- \* Amend motion #6 of the Infrastructure and Development/Social and Health Services Committee minutes dated June 15, 2005, to read "engineering quality imagery, which has traditionally been delivered by 10 cm pixel orthophotography" – see Council July 6, 2005, mot. #12.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

### Delegation

Ms. Margaret Roushorne, Manager, Ontario Works, spoke to the Committee regarding the transition of the intake screening duties to the County, which comes into effect June 15, 2005.

### Part B, Item 4 - General Manager's Report

#7: Foubister/Ivey: That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

Carried.

### Part C, Item 1 a) and b) - Correspondence 7-2-05 and 7-3-05

#8: Ivey/Kirkland: That correspondence 7-2-05 and 7-3-05 be noted and filed.

Carried.

### Part C, Item 1 c) - Correspondence 7-9-05

#9: Davidson/Bilton: That the County of Lambton not proceed further with the consideration of Country Manor's request for a domiciliary care agreement, until such time as the Province of Ontario confirms that an expansion of this discretionary program is permissible and that sufficient annualized provincial funding is available.

Carried.

### Part C, Item 2 - Children's Services Department - Out-of-Province Conference - International Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference and Meeting, July 9 - 11, 2005 in Chicago Illinois

#10: Foubister/Case: That the County of Lambton approve the out-of-Province travel to the International Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference and Meeting being held in Chicago, Illinois, July 9 - 11, 2005, at an estimated cost of \$2,100.00 (100% funding).

Carried.

### Part C, Item 3 - Provincial Budget Review

This item was presented to the Committee for its information.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### Part B, Item 4 - General Manager's Report -

#11: Ivey/Burns: That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

Carried.

### Part B, Item 3 - Tobacco Control

#12: Ivey/Foubister: That, in light of the revenue stream to the Province from the sale of tobacco products, that the full cost of mandatory programmes related to reduced smoking initiatives required by the Province, be paid for entirely by the Province.

Carried.

Part C, Item 1 a) - Correspondence 7-7-05

#13: Bilton/Burns: That correspondence 7-7-05 be noted and filed.

Carried.

Part C, Item 2 - Memorandum dated June 15, 2005 Regarding the Safe Water Program - Changes to the Administration of Drinking Water Systems

#14: Foubister/Kirkland: That the Safe Water Program - Changes to the Administration of Drinking Water Systems report, be accepted as presented, provided that there be 100% full cost recovery and that all such costs be collected by the Province.

Carried.

Part C, Item 3 - Smoke Free Ontario Report - Update

#15: Davidson/Ivey: That the Smoke Free Ontario Report be accepted as presented; and further, That the Province be notified of the County's concerns regarding outdoor patios.

Carried.

Part C, Item 4 - Local Public Health Capacity Review

#16: Ivey/Foubister: That staff be directed to comply with Option 3 as set out in the report as follows:

**"Direct the General Manager to complete the survey and submit the response to the MOHLTC by June 30, 2005."**

Carried.

Part C, Item 5 - Provincial Budget Review

This item was presented to the Committee for its consideration.

**IN-CAMERA**

#17: Foubister/Ivey: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to discuss a matter subject to solicitor-client privilege.

Carried.

#18: (Motion dealt with in the Lambton County Council (CLOSED SESSION) minutes dated July 6, 2005.)

**OPEN MEETING**

The Chair declared that the Committee go back into open meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**LEGAL SERVICES/CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**

Memorandum dated June 7, 2005 Regarding Bluewater Health Foundation By-Law and Agreement -

This item was provided solely for the information of the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005 at 9:00 a.m., at the County Building.

Time: 10:15 a.m.

---

Joseph Dedecker  
Chair

---

Ronald G. Van Horne  
Secretary

# AGENDA

County of Lambton  
Meeting for the Committee "Public Works/Facilities Services - General Manager's Report"  
on  
Wednesday June 15, 2005 09:00 AM  
Committee Room #1  
Chair: Jim Kutyba

## Orders of the Day:

Delegations  
PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)  
PART B - Monthly Activities  
PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion

### Delegations

URS Canada Inc. will address the committee regarding recommendations flowing from the Hwy 402 Planning and Preliminary Design Study (Bluewater Bridge Plaza to Lambton County Road #26 (Mandaumin Road)). The recommendations will be carried forward to the 3rd Public Information Session to be held June 28th.

### PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)

Motion #6, I & DS Committee, May 18, 2005 and Motion #10, County Council, June 1, 2005 re: e-waste.

Councillor Arnold brought forward information on a local (Sarnia-based) e-waste recycler. I visited recently, the established website of Digital Friends Inc., ([www.recyclesarnia.ca](http://www.recyclesarnia.ca) or [www.digitalfriends.ca](http://www.digitalfriends.ca)), as well as their place of business to determine their interest in receiving e-waste from Lambton County municipalities and/or residents. As noted in my May 6 report, the Minister of the Environment has directed Waste Diversion Ontario to develop a waste diversion program for e-waste. Typically, establishment and implementation of a new waste diversion program takes quite a while. The e-waste program provided free of charge by Digital Friends serves an immediate, if not longer, need locally.

I am somewhat reluctant to assist in advertising one business over other businesses that may also provide a similar service. As committee is aware, there have been other businesses that have previously taken e-waste but no longer do so.

Waste reduction is a local municipal responsibility in Lambton while the County provides landfill. Part of the rationale to this division of responsibility results from the fact that local municipalities contract for the collection (curbside or otherwise) of residential waste and therefore have control over what is collected. It would be useful for local municipalities to look at directing resident concerns around the disposal of e-waste to Digital Friends. While Digital Friends do not have the capacity to collect e-waste from other locations in the County, it is possible for interested local municipalities to establish a drop-off (utilizing a roll-off type container) at municipal works yards and pay to have the full container hauled to Sarnia as part of their waste reduction responsibility. Another option would be to direct residents to Digital Friends' Sarnia facility through their waste reduction (Blue Box) advertising, front office staff, etc. Utilizing the County HHW would be inconvenient (available 6 times per year) and there are long enough lineups now at the facility without adding an e-waste component.

I would propose that we pass along the local municipal contact information to Digital Friends and leave it to them to contact each municipality about their services. The County would utilize the contact information for redirecting phone inquiries, etc. related to the disposal of e-waste.

**Recommendation**

That the County work with the local e-waste recycler (Digital Friends Inc.) to provide local municipal contacts in Lambton County as an option to disposing of e-waste by landfilling.

**PART B - Monthly Activities**

1. Accounts and Verification

Totals for the month of May 2005:

Roads	\$ 375,453.83
Waste Management	\$ 109,295.34
Facilities Services	\$ 66,221.39

A listing of accounts will be available at the meeting.

i) Are there any items significantly over budget?	No
ii) Are there any items significantly under budget?	No
iii) Were all items purchased in accordance with County Policy?	Yes
iv) Are there any items that were not in the budget?	No

Totals for the month of May 2004:

Roads	\$ 373,651.11
Waste Management	\$ 52,151.85
Facilities Services	\$ 8,077.18

2. Revenue and Verification

Revenues received during the month of May 2005:

Roads	\$ 66,744.00
Waste Management	\$ 40,119.00
Facilities Services	\$ 257.00

i) Were any receipts not included in the current year's budget?	No
ii) Were any receipts significantly less than budgeted?	No
iii) Were any receipts significantly more than budgeted?	No

Revenues received during the month of May 2004:

Roads	\$ 129,936.00
Waste Management	\$ 32,845.00
Facilities Services	\$ 477.00

3. Items of Committee Interest

a) Undercharges for Railway Maintenance

The County was contacted recently by CSX Transportation. For the past three years they have been charging the County the incorrect amount for the maintenance of railway crossings across several County Roads. The number of crossings in question totaled five (5). The Canadian Transportation Agency sets these fees under their directives of 1996 titled "Railway Rates for Maintenance and Construction" as amended in 2004. The amount of the underpayment totals \$20,199.76 (includes 7% GST). This amount should have been attributed to the 2002, 2003, and 2004 budgets but will need to be absorbed within 2005. This additional expenditure will ensure that the 2005 costs for rail crossing maintenance will exceed the approved budget of \$20,000. This exceedance will be reported in the 2nd Quarter Variance Reporting.

b) COMRIF Intake Two Launch Planned for June - AMO Alert

c) Facilities Services Report

A report from the coordinator of Facilities Services is attached.

4. General Manager's Report

**Recommendation**

That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

**PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion**

1. Correspondence

None at this time.

2. Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF)

The County of Lambton's application under Intake One of the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) was successful in obtaining shared funding from the Federal Government (1/3) and Provincial Government (1/3) for the rehabilitation of the Sydenham River Bridge (79-3-118) and the replacement of the Bear Creek Bridge (21-3-291) referenced as the County of Lambton – Bridge Network Sustainability Project. The Province has agreed to administer the COMRIF initiative on behalf of both levels of government. The County is proceeding with completion and execution of an appropriate agreement with the Provincial Government to secure funding for the project.

**Recommendation**

That the Warden and Clerk be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for the County of Lambton – Bridge Network Sustainability Project; and further

That the appropriate By-Law be presented to County Council for its consideration.

# AGENDA

County of Lambton  
Meeting for the Committee "Planning & Development/Building Services - General  
Manager's Report"

on  
Wednesday June 15, 2005 09:00 AM  
Committee Room #1  
Chair: Jim Kutyba

**Orders of the Day:**

**PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)**  
**PART B - Monthly Activities**  
**PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion**

**PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)**

1. Motion #4: That the County of Lambton's submission under the Hydro Corridors Secondary Use Project, be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by the June 1, 2005 deadline.

The report was circulated to the affected municipalities and no comments or suggested changes were received. The report was forwarded on May 26th by courier to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The Clerk forwarded a certified copy of the June 1 County Council motion confirming its support of the P. & D. report.

**PART B - Monthly Activities**

1. Accounts and Verification

Totals for the month of May 2005:

Planning & Development	\$ 1,887.09
Emergency Services	\$ 5,511.91
Building Services	\$ 15,275.78

A listing of accounts will be available at the meeting.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| i) Are there any items significantly over budget?               | No  |
| ii) Are there any items significantly under budget?             | No  |
| iii) Were all items purchased in accordance with County Policy? | Yes |
| iv) Are there any items that were not in the budget?            | No  |

Totals for the month of May 2004:

Planning & Development	\$ 2,288.17
Emergency Services	\$ 116.25
Building Services	\$ 8,055.45

2. Revenue and Verification

Revenues received during the month of May 2005:

Planning & Development	\$ 3,767.00
Emergency Services	\$ 1,356.00
Building Services	\$ 21,039.00

- i) Were any receipts not included in the current year's budget? No
- ii) Were any receipts significantly less than budgeted? No
- iii) Were any receipts significantly more than budgeted? No

Revenues received during the month of May 2004:

Planning & Development	\$ 1,962.00
Emergency Services	\$ 0.00
Building Services	\$ 24,214.00

3. Items of Committee Interest

a) Work in Progress

Township of Brooke-Alvinston Official Plan and Zoning By-law

Brooke-Alvinston's housekeeping Zoning By-law amendment and OPA 1 (amendments to agricultural policies including allowing residential severances) were adopted May 12. The last date of appeal is June 14 after which the OPA requires County approval.

Township of Enniskillen Comprehensive Zoning By-law

New changes are being incorporated into the document. This project is on-going.

Village of Point Edward Official Plan

Staff have met with interested property owners and the document is awaiting any submissions from those owners prior to being finalized.

Village of Point Edward Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review

Preliminary work continues on this document.

Town of Plympton-Wyoming Zoning By-law

Section 26.2 of the Zoning By-law as originally passed is still under appeal. This section applies to Sawmill Creek. An agreement has been reached on revised wording, but the appellants have made no further contact with either the municipality or the OMB. The OMB has therefore set July 18th to deal with the matter. The Zoning By-law amendment to make the Blue Point Shoreline Management Area subject to the same regulations as the rest of the Lakeshore was appealed, but the appeal was withdrawn prior to the OMB hearing set for May 12-13.

Village of Oil Springs Official Plan

An updated copy of the plan will be presented to Village Council as soon as possible.

b) Official Plan Amendment # 1 to the Township of Brooke-Alvinston Official Plan

OPA #1 was adopted by Township Council on May 12, 2005 by By-law Number 14 of 2005, and was received by the County of Lambton on May 30, 2005.

Council initiated this amendment. OPA #1 will permit surplus farm dwellings to be severed as rural residential lots, something that has been prohibited in the Municipality since the passage of the current plan in 2000. Additional amendments add conditions that must be satisfied before being allowed to create such a rural residential lot to help minimize negative impacts to agriculture. Although it changes the severance policies, the amendment remains consistent with both the County Official Plan and the new Provincial Policy Statement. Other provisions are added to bolster the importance of agriculture in the Official Plan; to outline circumstances under which second farm residences may be considered; and to expand on how Minimum Distance Separation is applied in the Municipality.

Approval was given on June 1, 2005.

c) Plans of Subdivision

- i) 38C-04001  
Countryview Condominiums  
973186 Alberta Limited (Brian Correira)  
6199 First School Road  
Concession 1 SER, Part Lot 12,  
Township of Warwick

The applicant proposes to convert the former Warwick Central School into 18 affordable condominium units for seniors. Draft approval was given on April 12, 2005.

- ii) 38T-02002  
Elbee Investments Sarnia Limited  
Part of Lot 11, Concession 10  
Town of Petrolia

The proposed development would be accessed by an extension of County View Drive and Valentina Street. The intent is to create a total of 49 lots for single-detached dwellings. Final approval was given on May 18, 2005.

- iii) 38T-04002  
Matthew Cullen, John Charles Miller and Thomas Vigliotti  
Part Lots 34, 35, 36 and 37, Front Concession  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

The owners have applied to subdivide the lands into 34 single detached dwellings. Draft Approval was given on May 30, 2005.

d) County of Lambton Fire Coordinator

A memo from Mark Wetering, Emergency Management Coordinator, regarding the County of Lambton Fire Coordinator is attached.

e) Lambton County Community Emergency Management Coordinators' Meeting

Minutes of Tuesday, May 17, 2005 are attached.

f) Emergency Management Coordinator Report

May's activity report is attached.

4. General Manager's Report

**Recommendation**

That the General Manager's Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

**PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion**

1. Correspondence

None at this time.

2. Orthophotography Renewal Project

Attached is a staff report.

**Recommendation**

The Committee recommends to Council that:

It authorize and direct staff to proceed with the letting of an RFP to obtain orthophotography of urban areas using 10 cm resolution; and further

It accept this report's definition of the urban areas to be included in the orthophotography RFP; and further

The County only covers the cost of obtaining the orthophotography necessary to satisfy its requirements and uses. Should any partner or area municipality request additional service levels, that they be required to cover the associated incremental costs; and further

Council establish an "orthophotography reserve" for purposes of funding this project and future orthophotography projects; and further

Staff be directed to determine the "straight-line" annual contribution necessary to fund the cost of orthophotography during the next five years for inclusion in the Corporation's 2006 Budget; and further

The straight-line contribution amount be reviewed as part of the County's annual budgeting process; and further

Any deficit in funding of the 2006 project resulting from the use of straight-line funding be treated as an Unfinanced Capital Outlay that will be funded by future draw downs from the reserve.

# AGENDA

County of Lambton  
Meeting for the Committee "Social Services - General Manager's Report"  
on  
Wednesday June 15, 2005 09:00 AM  
Committee Room #1  
Chair: Ken Dick

## Orders of the Day:

Delegations  
PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)  
PART B - Monthly Activities  
PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion

### Delegations

#### 1. Ontario Works - Intake Screening -

Margaret Roushorne, Manager, Ontario Works will be in attendance to discuss the transition of the intake screening duties to Lambton County and has prepared the attached presentation for Committee, regarding the changes to the application process for local residents effective June 15, 2005.

### PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)

1. No matters to report.

### PART B - Monthly Activities

#### 1. Accounts and Verification

Total for the month of May 2005	\$1,681,847.71
Total for the month of May 2004	\$1,424,581.73

A listing of accounts will be available at the meeting.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| i) Are there any items significantly over Budget?               | No  |
| ii) Are there any items significantly under Budget?             | No  |
| iii) Were all items purchased in accordance with County Policy? | Yes |
| iv) Are there any items that were not in the Budget?            | No  |

#### 2. Revenue and Verification

Revenues received during the month of May 2005	\$1,212,510.00
Revenues received during the month of May 2004	\$ 893,894.00

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| i) Were any receipts not included in the current year's budget? | No |
| ii) Were any receipts significantly less than budgeted?         | No |
| iii) Were any receipts significantly more than budgeted?        | No |

### 3. Items of Committee Interest

#### Social Services Department - Ontario Works Statistical Report

The attached Ontario Works statistical report is for the month of May 2005. The increase of 23 cases represents an increase of 1.28% over the previous month. Year-to-date, the caseload has increased by 8.54% with the average caseload at 113.6 cases per caseworker.

#### Ontario Works Employment Incentives

Effective August 2005, changes will be implemented to improve supports provided through Ontario Works for individuals as they transition from social assistance to employment. The following provides a description of the changes.

Earnings exemptions will be simplified through implementation of a single 50% earnings exemption for all income from employment. This means that effective August 1, 2005 the current basic flat rate exemption and two year phase out of the variable (percentage rate) exemption is eliminated.

A full time employment benefit will be implemented that provides up to \$500.00 to help individuals who obtain full time employment with the costs of going to work.

The maximum deduction from earned income for informal child care costs will increase from \$390.00 per month per child to \$600.00 per month per child for working parents with children aged 0 – 12 years. Recipients with children over the age of 12 that require care due to special circumstances will also be eligible for up to \$600.00 per month per child.

Ontario Works health benefits may be provided to recipients who exit to employment for a transitional period of up to six months, or until the recipient receives health benefits from their employer, whichever comes first. Persons in receipt of the Extended Employment Health Benefits will not be subject to Ontario Works income and asset limits. An additional six month extension may be allowed in exceptional circumstances; however drug coverage would be limited to assistance with the Trillium Drug Program quarterly deductible. Recipients would continue to be eligible for other benefits.

#### Implications for Ontario Works Recipients

In the long term, together with the other employment incentives being introduced, the province anticipates that the change to a 50% earnings exemption will improve recipients' incentive to work while on the caseload, and when they exit to employment, improve their chances of making a successful, long-term transition into the workforce.

In the immediate term, current earners on the caseload will fit into one of two categories after the change to earnings exemption is implemented in August.

One group of earners will have greater financial resources available to them (earned income plus assistance). This includes those earners who are no longer eligible for the variable exemption.

The other group includes earners who will have fewer financial resources available to them (earned income plus assistance). This includes those earners who earn less than the current basic exemption amount.

### Transition Strategy

A cheque insert advising of the change to Ontario Works earnings exemptions and the other transitional supports to employment will be included in the July 2005 cheque.

The ministry has provided an adhoc report capturing data as of May 9, 2005 which identifies 183 recipients who will have fewer financial resources available and 97 who will have greater financial resources available to them effective August 1st.

The immediate priority for staff will be those recipients who are negatively impacted by the changes. Commencing in June, employment caseworkers will meet with recipients to discuss the impact and identify options or strategies that may enable them to increase their earnings and take advantage of the exemption changes. Additional follow up meetings will be held as required. Transitional supports may be made available to assist with expenses on a short term basis (up to three months, and on an exception basis up to six months) to help mitigate the impact.

Once the immediate needs of the priority group have been met, staff will meet with those earners who have been positively impacted by the exemption change and who still remain on social assistance. Employment workers will meet with these recipients to discuss options to increase their employment earnings as well as inform them of the transitional supports available on exiting from social assistance.

### Ontario Disability Support Program Caseload

In January 2005, the ODSP Branch Social Policy Development Division prepared a presentation entitled Ontario Disability Support Program Caseload – Factors Behind Recent Growth. A copy of the presentation is attached for Committee's information.

The presentation indicates that a significant factor affecting the historical trend in the ODSP caseload reflects two major policy changes, including the proclamation of the Ontario Disability Support Program Act in May 1998 and the impact of the April 2002 Ontario Court of Appeals Grey decision on the definition of disability.

Prior to the proclamation of the ODSP Act, between April 1996 and April 1998 the annual average growth rate in the disabled caseload was 4.6%. The definition of a disabled person included someone whose disability was prolonged and significant such that they were permanently unemployable (PUE). The definition was expanded upon appeals before the Social Assistance Review Board and did include those that were socially unemployable.

In May 1998 with the proclamation of ODSP, the definition of a disabled person changed and included those who had a physical or mental impairment such that the direct effect of that impairment resulted in substantial restrictions in activities of daily living including personal care, functioning in the community or workplace. On application of the new definition, between May 1998 and April 2002 the average annual growth rate declined significantly to 1.9%.

In April 2002, a decision by the Ontario Court of Appeals (Grey decision) held that ODSP is designed to assist individuals whose disabilities are significant, but not necessarily severe. Since the implementation of the Grey case decision regarding the definition of disability, the annual growth rate has averaged 3%. In Lambton, the ODSP caseload increased by 4.6% in 2004.

The presentation further states that "regression analysis shows that a complete reversal of the ODSP Act (ie, a policy u-turn to include PUE cases again) could lead to a long-term annual growth rate of about 5.1% in the disabled caseload." The Ministry has projected an annual growth rate of 3.8% in 2004/2005.

The first quarter ODSP caseload statistics had not been released prior to the preparation of this report, however January – May 2005 ODSP actual expenditures are 4.6% higher than the budget forecast. Committee will recall that the 2005 Ontario Works budget was set using 2004 actual ODSP expenditures. Staff will continue to monitor the ODSP caseload and its affect on the departmental budget.

#### Social Services Department - Intake Screening

As Committee will recall, the Ministry announced that Intake Screening Units would be eliminated and that Ontario Works would move from a two-step to a one-step application process conducted in local offices by June 16, 2005. Effective May 2, 2005, Bruce County, Chatham-Kent, Stratford-Perth and Oxford County transitioned to the one step process and the City of Windsor transitioned May 9th. No significant issues were reported. The City of London, Grey County and Lambton move to the new process June 15, 2005. The Intake Screening Unit will cease operations June 16, 2005.

Staff have finalized implementation planning around the transition of intake screening duties to Lambton effective June 15, 2005 and training sessions have been scheduled.

#### Social Services Department – Homelessness

Committee will recall that as a result of the Province's Homelessness Initiatives Fund staff developed a local plan to address the issue of homelessness and that two years ago a multi-year plan was approved. Attached is a report on the Homelessness initiatives implemented over the past year which describes the impact those programs had in the community. In total \$240,000 was invested and 21,358 people received service.

The current multi-year Homelessness Plan expires at the end of this year. Staff has begun the process of developing a new plan to respond to the needs of the community including research and analysis of local, provincial, and federal information and trends as well focus group sessions with local stakeholders have been scheduled. It is anticipated a new multi-year plan will be prepared by December of this year in anticipation of implementation beginning the first of the new-year.

#### Social Services Department - Lambton Shared Services Centre

Committee will recall that staff engaged the services of a space planner for the purposes of redesigning and expanding the lobby of the LSSC to accommodate the needs of a new partner (Ministry of Health and Long Term Care - OHIP) and the existing LSSC Partners. Committee will also recall that due to the unique operational needs of the existing partners and the new partner, as well as the timelines associated with this project, staff, authorized by council, has been in negotiations with OHIP and Bayside Mall for the purposes of moving this project forward. Attached with the space design is a chronological update on the process that has occurred to the point of achieving the space design as well as a revised timeline schedule for the completion of this project.

Recently with the assistance of the County's communications officer and IT department a web page for the LSSC was launched through the County's web site. The site provides an explanation about the history and creation of the LSSC and the partners involved. It also allows visitors to link to all the partners directly for detailed information about their

#### Social Services Department – Social Planning Projects

Staff has engaged in a community committee that is exploring the opportunities to coordinate the numerous programs and services offered by service providers including the County of Lambton into the education system. Initial meetings would indicate that there is a fair amount of duplication of materials and similar targeted grade levels (predominately grades 6,7 and 8), and a lot of gaps.

Some schools appear to access the services of some of the community agencies, while others don't know these services are available. The group is being facilitated by Mr. Don Cook of Rebound. The success of such a coordination of services within the school system would ensure the continuum of services that will be provided through the Best Start initiative would not cease once a child reaches grade one.

#### Children's Services Department - Dental Services

An Open Wide Dental Presentation on World Health Day was given to 49 people at the YMCA Learning and Career Centre.

A Basic Oral Health Presentation for Job Start Program was attended by 16 people. A total of 604 JK/SK children were screened at the following schools: London Road School, Johnston Memorial School, Queen Elizabeth II School, Petrolia, Hillcrest School, Petrolia, Colonel Cameron and St. Peter's School, Sarnia. Fifty-nine (59) children were found needing treatment.

For the month of April, 19 children received Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) assistance.

#### Children's Services Department - Coronation Park Day Nursery

Staff attended several workshops during the month of April 2005, including: Conflict Management for Women, OCCMS training, WHMIS training, Successfully Working with Personalities

A practice fire drill took place at Coronation Park Day Nursery, taking 50 seconds to empty the building of all children and staff.

#### Children's Services Department – Special Needs Resourcing

Committee will recall that in 1999 the province devolved the responsibility to deliver child care services to the municipality. Within the spectrum of services included is the provision of Special Needs Resource Services. At the time of devolution, there was a provision that there be no change to the delivery of service for the first year. In accordance with provincial requirements, a child care plan was prepared after consultation with community stakeholders. During the first few years the County of Lambton realized that there were issues preventing the service from being delivered effectively. In August 2002, a meeting was convened and chaired by the Manager of Children's Services for the County of Lambton to address these concerns. Present were the executive director of St. Clair Child and Youth Services, executive director of Pathways Health Centre for Children, the Dean of Business at Lambton College and the Supervisor of the ECE program at Lambton College. Attendees were advised that the needs of children were not being met in this community and they had to work together to coordinate their services. Despite meeting several times, no plan was developed to deal with the issues raised at the initial meeting.

Committee will also recall that in late January 2003, a crisis arose in child care centres. As a result, child care supervisors refused to accept any new children into their program with special needs without resource support. An interim plan was implemented to deal with the crisis. In recognition of expressed concerns by the Child Care community regarding the delivery of special needs resourcing services, an internal working group was established to identify the critical elements of an affective and efficient service delivery model for our community. The results and findings of this group's work was to develop a request for proposal for delivery of Special Needs Resourcing that would meet the current and future needs of the County and local first nation communities.

Social Planning & Program Support staff conducted several interviews with current service providers and held several community consultations. This information was used to develop a set of eleven themes to guide the development of the new model as well as the Request for Proposal.

The first stage of the Request for Proposal process was initiated in June 2004. Proponents were required to meet certain pre-qualifying conditions to be eligible to submit proposals to deliver the service. Three agencies met the prequalification conditions and submitted proposals. An evaluation committee reviewed the proposals in October 2004 and soon after which the transition process to the new service delivery model to be delivered by the successful proponent Pathways Health Centre for Children was initiated.

On the first of April this year the transition into the new service delivery model was successfully completed as Pathways assumed full responsibility to deliver the service to all children with Special Needs in the County of Lambton.

The intended benefits of the new service delivery model included streamlined services, co-ordination of services, lower administration costs one point of access, improved communication regarding the service and expansion of the service to include children in licensed home child care. After initiating the process of amalgamating services into one agency, it was discovered that many children in the system were shared clients of two, if not all three agencies. The County of Lambton now has a clear indication of the number of children in the system. With children counted only once for service, resources will be available to service more children, including children that were previously on waiting lists. The new service delivery model was developed to service approximately 200 children so there is room to accommodate the new referrals from child care centres and licensed home child care providers into the system. It is expected that all children with special needs resource requirements will receive services in either child care centres or licensed home day care settings.

#### 4. General Managers Report

##### **Recommendation**

That the General Managers Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

#### **PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion**

##### 1. **Correspondence** -

- a) 7-2-05 Correspondence from the City of Kingston supporting the actions of the Council of Lennox & Addington and that the Province of Ontario be requested to develop a fair and consistent dental care program to be targeted at lower-wage working Ontarions.
- b) 7-3-05 Correspondence from the City of Kingston supporting the actions of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and calls on the Government of Canada to develop a comprehensive National Oral Health Strategy.

##### **Recommendation**

That Correspondence 7-2-05 and correspondence 7-3-05 be noted and filed.

- c) 7-9-05 Correspondence from Country Manor, Retirement Home

##### Country Manor - Discussion

Country Manor in Thedford is requesting approval to enter into an agreement with the County of Lambton to provide residential services to county residents under the domiciliary hostel program. A similar request was received from Country Manor in 1992 which was not successful. Since that

time, County Manor has expanded and is able to accommodate residents who require subsidized assistance and wish to remain within their community.

Domiciliary Hostels are permanent residences for people with special needs and refer to subsidized residents and/or beds in retirement homes and lodging homes. The homes are owned by private operators who enter into agreement with the municipality and receive a per diem to provide residents with permanent accommodation and some support to daily living.

The program is discretionary and in the last several years municipalities have withdrawn from providing the service. A survey of South West Region municipalities revealed that Chatham-Kent, Huron and Middlesex ended their programs due to budget constraints. Since 1998, a provincial review of the domiciliary hostel program has been outstanding and the program continues to be operated by municipalities as an adjunct to Ontario Works.

Lambton County Ontario Works currently administers two domiciliary hostel agreements with Queen's Lodge and Wallis Residence, both located in Sarnia. The providers receive a maximum \$41.20 per diem and \$116.00 per month in personal needs allowance. The amount paid to the providers each month is reduced by resident income. The program is funded 80 per cent by the province and 20 per cent by the municipality. Ministry subsidy covers the cost of per diem and personal needs allowances as well as 10% towards the cost of program administration. At the time that this report was prepared, there were beds available in both facilities.

The 2005 First Quarter Report estimates \$145,000 in annual gross expenditures for the two existing agreements, requiring \$116,000 in provincial subsidy. The annualized Ministry subsidy approval for Lambton County is \$111,088, which is based on 2004 expenditures and does not reflect the annualized cost of the provincial rate increase implemented effective July 2004. Staff have identified that additional provincial subsidy of \$4,912 may be required in 2005.

The 2005 County domiciliary hostel budget was also established based on 2004 actual expenditures. In 2004, the County contributed \$27,772 in funding toward the program. The increase to \$145,000 in gross annual expenditures will increase the county contribution to \$29,000 for the existing agreements.

In March 2005, staff approached the Program Supervisor to inquire whether there would be provincial subsidy available should the County of Lambton enter into a new domiciliary hostel agreement. The Program Supervisor advised that the Region had been instructed to maintain current levels of service, and that the Ministry would not be entering into new agreements unless an existing operator closed and a new agreement would enable the County to maintain the current service level.

As a second inquiry was received from Oxford County, the Regional office is attempting to determine whether other South West Region CMSMs will have unspent domiciliary hostel allocations that could be converted into annualized funding to support new or expanded agreements. Proposals would be considered from across the region should sufficient funding be available.

### **Recommendation**

That the County of Lambton not proceed further with consideration of Country Manor's request for a domiciliary care Agreement, until such time as the Province of Ontario confirms that an expansion of this discretionary program is permissible and that sufficient annualized provincial funding is available.

## 2. Children's Services Department - Out of Province Conference

Council permission is sought for out-to-province travel to the International Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference and Meeting. This year's international conference is being held in Chicago, Illinois, July 9-11th. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for the Children's Services Department Healthy Baby Healthy Children's public health nurse to gain invaluable knowledge. Internationally acclaimed speakers from across the globe will be present the latest research, knowledge and evidence based practice.

Registration, travel, accommodation and per diem is estimated at \$2,100.00 The Province of Ontario provides 100% funding for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.

### **Recommendation**

That the County of Lambton approve out-of-province travel to the International Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference and Meeting being held in Chicago, Illinois, July 9-11th, at an estimated cost of \$2,100.00 (100% funding).

## 3. Provincial Budget Review

Prepared with the assistance of reports issued by OMSSA and AIPHA

Children's Services - Best Start

The budget confirmed that the provincial government will utilize all the federal dollars available under the recently signed Canada-Ontario agreement entitled "Moving Forward On Early Learning and Child Care" as well as the next three years allocation under the Multi-Lateral Framework (2003) for their Best Start program with the priority being 4 & 5 year olds.

Child Care expenditures will more than double from \$533 M in 2003/04 to \$1,106 in 2007/08, based entirely on federal transfers (subject to federal budget approval and enabling federal legislation), and no new provincial dollars. In 2005/06 the increase over 2004/05 is \$302 M composed of \$272 M from the new agreement and an additional \$30 M under the Multilateral Framework.

There was no mention of expectations for municipal expenditures for the expanded program beyond 2005/06.

As a key part of the above increase the budget calls for \$97 M in 2005/06 in new child care capital expenditures to ensure an increase in the number of child care spaces at or near schools. There is no requirement for municipal or other partner cost sharing. The design details for the capital program are in development.

MCYS' operating budget includes an increase of \$46 M to reflect growth in spending on Children's Mental Health, Children's Treatment Centers and Healthy Babies / Healthy Children programs

Social Assistance

Child Benefit increases due July 1, 2005 will not be clawed back for 2005/06. This represents a \$28 M increase in benefits in 2005/06. There is no mention of a move to eliminate and / or reduce any of the claw back of pre July 1 2004 NCBS payments.

There is a commitment to renew the Emergency Energy Assistance Fund for low income households. No dollar amount was provided.

The budget plans for an estimated \$38 M increase in provincial drug benefit costs for OW and ODSP clients, resulting in \$7.6 M increase for the municipal cost share of this program. The 2004/05 budget called for an increase of \$42 M for MCSS' share of drug costs.

To put this expenditure in context, provincial costs for social assistance benefits (OW and ODSP) is \$4 B, which represents 6% of program spending, while all drug programs (social assistance and seniors) is \$3.3 B or 4.8% of program spending.

Under the heading of "New Training Investments", the budget document reports that under the JobsNow pilot, 1,500 jobs have already been identified and first job placements are underway.

#### Training and Apprenticeships

Prior to signing a deal to quadruple funding for immigration services with the federal government, the provincial government committed \$17.5 M in 2006/07 for a series of new training investments. These include:

- \$10 M in 2006/07 (rising to \$17.5 M in 2007/08) for services for new Canadians and prospective apprentices as part of the new One-Stop Training and Employment System;
- \$2.5 M annually for expanding bridge training programs that help skilled new Canadians move quickly into the labour market;
- \$4 M for colleges to pilot re-engineered processes and programs to help new Canadians access College education and jobs; and
- \$1 M to pilot programs to encourage employers to better recognize skills of new Canadians.

Other new funding worth noting includes:

-3 million for the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for the promotion of physical activity-Expansion of the Ontario Strategic Infrastructure Financing Authority to include culture, recreation and economic development projects.

#### **Recommendation**

For Committee's information.

# AGENDA

County of Lambton  
Meeting for the Committee "Community Health Services - General Manager's Report"  
on  
Wednesday June 15, 2005 09:00 AM  
Committee Room #1  
Chair: Ken Dick

## Orders of the Day:

PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)  
PART B - Monthly Activities  
PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion  
IN-CAMERA

### PART A - Follow-up from Previous Month(s)

#### 1. PART A - Follow-up from previous Months

1. No matters to report.

### PART B - Monthly Activities

#### 1. PART B - Monthly Activities

##### 1. Accounts and Verification

Total for the month of May 2005	\$ 71,189.05
Total for the month of May 2004	\$113,278.85

A listing of accounts will be available at the meeting.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| i) Are there any items significantly over Budget?               | No  |
| ii) Are there any items significantly under Budget?             | No  |
| iii) Were all items purchased in accordance with County Policy? | Yes |
| iv) Are there any items that were not in the Budget?            | No  |

##### 2. Revenue and Verification

Revenues received during the month of May 2005	\$21,904.00
Revenues received during the month of May 2004	\$18,395.00

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| i) Were any receipts not included in the current year's budget? | No |
| ii) Were any receipts significantly less than budgeted?         | No |
| iii) Were any receipts significantly more than budgeted?        | No |

### 3. Items of Committee Interest

#### Tobacco Use Prevention

The Southwest Youth Tobacco Education and Empowerment Conference was held in April with funding from the Southwest Prevention and Early Detection Network.(PEDN) Three student leaders from local high schools attended the conference and received training to work with other youth. The Network provided \$1,000.00 in funding for each youth coalition that attended the conference to assist in student initiated activities. This activity falls within the Mandatory program guidelines for Chronic Disease Prevention (requirement 2) which states: The Board of Health shall support the development of peer educators to participate and support chronic disease prevention by promoting one of the following topics: tobacco free living, healthy eating, healthy weights, and regular physical activity.

#### Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

A Community Affair Practise Sun Safety Everywhere: An Elementary School Sun Safety Resource package and distribution of sun safety information for elementary aged children in Lambton, Kent, and Essex Counties has been completed. Eighty-three (83) resource packages were issued to each elementary school and over 17,000 post cards and notes to parents were distributed to Lambton County elementary students. This activity falls under the Mandatory Program Guidelines for Chronic Disease Prevention (requirement 15c) which states: That the Board of Health shall work with local groups and individuals to provide education and promote policies which reduce the incident of skin cancers.

#### Early Child Development

New Parent Resource Guide Workgroup had the final in-person meeting to work on 2005/2006 edition, and finalized content and advertisements for the new guide. The goal is to print a new edition for distribution in September 2005. This activity is funded through the Early Child Development initiative.

#### Integrated Public Health System

The Department's Epidemiologist is involved on the implementation team to introduce the new Integrated Public Health Information System.(iPHIS) This new system will replace the Reportable Disease Information System which is presently used to record communicable diseases data at all health departments/units across Ontario. Related activities include: The Epidemiologist met with Team Lead iPHIS Project and local implementation team for the Kick-off iPHIS Implementation in Lambton County. Members of the Local Implementation team include Supervisors, Public Health Nurses, Administrative Assistant, Information Technology Systems Analyst and the Epidemiologist. County of Lambton is scheduled to go-live on iPHIS on July 18, 2005 and the planning for the implementation includes Train-the-Trainer sessions in Chatham, Ontario the week of June 13, 2005 and training in Cognos reportNet software report writing in Toronto on July 5-6, 2005.

#### Healthy Weights Strategy

Staff are in the early stages of developing a strategic plan to implement the recommendations in the 2004 Chief Medical Officer of Health's report - Healthy Weights, Healthy Lives. Currently the team is working through the first two steps which include:

- Identifying participants and stakeholders, resources, and the availability of data relevant to the issues;
- Outlining a decision making process and establishing timelines.

These steps will be followed by a situational assessment which identifies the strengths and assets of the Lambton community and looks at socio-environmental conditions and broader determinants of health.

It is anticipated that internal planning will identify the scope of physical activity and nutrition within Lambton and identify a process for engaging broad community participation. This activity is connected with the Healthy Living Lambton coalition, and also falls under Mandatory Program for Chronic Disease Prevention 9-14, including nutrition and physical activity in schools, workplaces, and communities.

#### Tobacco Control

Enforcement Officers issued two tickets under the Smoking in Public Places and Workplaces By-Law. Both were issued to Sarnia area business proprietors. One owner was charged for failing to give notice that smoking is prohibited. The second owner was charged for failing to ensure no ashtrays or like paraphernalia in a public place. One statement of infraction was issued to a Sarnia area workplace.

#### Rabies Control

Thirty-nine animal biting incidents were investigated during this period. One person was placed on post-exposure rabies treatment after being bitten by a raccoon.

#### Infection Control

Public Health Inspectors began manual inspections of migrant farm workers housing this month. No issues have been reported to date.

#### Control of Infectious Diseases

A gastroenteric outbreak was declared at a long-term care facility in Lambton Shores late last month. The agent responsible for the outbreak was identified as Rotavirus, a sporadic, seasonal viral gastroenteritis characterized by vomiting, fever, and watery diarrhea. It usually affects infants and young children but outbreaks of clinical disease are known to occur in geriatric units. This outbreak is resolving and should be declared over, soon.

An outbreak of Influenza A was declared at Blue Water Health (Continuing Care - 3 South) on May 24, 2005. Control measures have been implemented to contain its spread. As of June 1, the outbreak is on-going. This outbreak is unique in that there hasn't been an outbreak of influenza this late in the season. Normally, the influenza season is drawing to a close in late March or early April. Two Influenza B isolates and one Influenza A case have been reported during the month of May, which is unusually late in the season. All of these cases were individuals in the community, not in health care facilities.

One further case of Hepatitis A was identified in a returned traveller. This individual did receive immunization in April as a result of contact with a previously reported case, but went on to develop Hepatitis A in spite of the vaccine, likely due to a joint exposure outside of Canada earlier in the spring.

The rubella outbreak centered in Oxford County continues to grow. This outbreak appears to have originated in a school with low rates of immunization for rubella, and may be linked to an ongoing outbreak in the Netherlands. To date, no cases have been identified in Lambton, however, staff have fielded numerous calls regarding the outbreak. A number of questions have been received from

pregnant women, whose unborn babies would be most at risk for serious consequences from a rubella infection.

#### Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Catch-up clinics have been held for meningitis vaccine and for the routine boosters due at the secondary school level. Secondary school students whose immunizations are not up to date for the required vaccines have received suspension orders which took effect June 1, 2005. Consequently, the catch-up clinics have been well attended and will help minimize the number of students who are actually suspended as of the June deadline.

Travel clinics remain very busy. The malaria risk advisory for the resort areas of Dominican Republic has finally been removed by Health Canada and the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta. No new cases of malaria from this area have been reported since January.

#### Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

These two clinical areas are now combined under one Supervisor, and as a result the scheduling of staff for the clinics will be merged. This will enable cross-training and updating to proceed more effectively, which will assist in addressing capacity issues in the Department's clinics.

Clinics continue to be very busy and rescheduling was required to accommodate the absence of one of the sexual health clinic physicians during the month of June. Typically, both May and June physician clinics are busy due to college and university students returning to Lambton for the summer.

Sexual health teaching in the elementary and secondary schools in Lambton has now been completed for this school year. Final statistics are not yet complete, but each year an increasing number of public elementary schools take advantage of the expertise of Department staff and request the expanded (fee for service) teaching package.

"Girl Talk" presentations are currently in progress. These annual presentations targeted to parents and their grade 5 & 6 daughters help to open doors to communication between parent and child, surrounding the issues of puberty. Each year, these events are well attended and receive very positive feed-back.

Further Federal funding for a Hepatitis 'C' project in Lambton will not be able to be accessed this year, due to the changes in the requirements for acceptance of applications, coupled with a very tight time frame during which applications could be made.

#### 4. General Managers Report

##### Recommendation

That the General Managers Report as set out in Part A and Part B be accepted as presented.

### **PART C - Other Matters Requiring a Motion**

#### 1. Correspondence

- a) 7-7-05 AMO Alert advising the Ministry of the Environment released a new Regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, and Proposed Consequential Amendments to Regulation 107/03.

### **Recommendation**

That correspondence 7-7-05 be noted and filed.

#### 2. Safe Water Program

On May 17, 2005 the Provincial government announced that it intends to make public health departments/units responsible for ensuring facilities such as churches, community halls, bed & breakfasts, tourist outfitters, etc.. have safe drinking water. Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky announced "We will be investing in public health units to help them take over this responsibility and hire and train new inspectors."The government is confident that this new approach will ensure that drinking water is safe without requiring unnecessary tests and treatment systems. Extensive consultation was conducted across the Province and there was an overwhelming preference for public health units to oversee these drinking water systems.

The attached staff report details the changes to the administration of drinking water systems.

### **Recommendation**

That the Safe Water Program - Changes to the Administration of Drinking Water Systems report, be accepted as presented.

#### 3. Smoke Free Ontario - Update

On May 31, the Minister of Health & Long-Term Care announced a \$50 million commitment to the Smoke Free Ontario campaign. The funds will be allocated as follows:

Youth Prevention Programs (\$5.6M)

Cessation (\$13.8M)

Aboriginal Programs (\$2M)

Evaluation, Surveillance and Administration (\$4.6M)

Public Health Units (\$7.7M) in funding to increase the resources of public health units for health protection and enforcement. The estimated share for Lambton County is approximately \$130,000.00 as previously reported to Committee, however, formal funding Agreements have not yet been received.

In addition, \$50 million in funding was recently announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to support tobacco farmers exiting tobacco production.

The Smoke Free Ontario Act is currently before the Provincial legislature for final debate. If passed, it will become effective May 31, 2006. The attached chart compares Lambton County By-Law #10 of 2004 with the proposed provincial legislation. It should be noted that several revisions to the Act were made in Committee following the recent hearings.

In summary, the proposed legislation is a part of an overall comprehensive approach that targets youth prevention and strongly supports cessation for current smokers. The legislation will finally put the entire Province on a level playing field and eliminate inequity.

A Question and Answer fact sheet provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, is attached for Committee's reference.

### **Recommendation**

That the Smoke Free Ontario Report be accepted as presented.

#### 4. Local Public Health Capacity Review

As part of Operation Health Protection - An Action Plan to Prevent threats to our Health and to Promote a Healthy Ontario, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) committed to undertake a capacity review of public health departments/units. The objective of the review is to enhance public health's capacity to plan and implement programs and services that will effectively respond to the current and emerging needs.

Dr. Susan Tamblyn (former Perth County Medical Officer of Health) is the Chair of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) and Mr. Brian Hyndman is the Vice-chair. The CRC is advising the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and through her, the MoHLTC on ways to improve the function and configuration of the local public health system.

More information on Operation Health Protection and on the CRC can be found on the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care's website at <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/>. (click on Operation Health Protection, a button on the left hand side.) The attached illustration provides an overview of the process.

##### Survey Tools

The first phase of data collection (April - July 2005) includes undertaking surveys with those working in public health.

##### Public Health Unit Survey

As part of the local public health capacity review, all public health units have been asked to complete an extensive survey focusing on the following five areas:

- Health Human Resources;
- Research and Knowledge Transfer;
- Governance and Structure;
- Public Health System Accountability; and
- Public Health Funding.

Committee's direction is sought with respect to how it wishes staff to proceed with the completion of the Public Health Unit Survey. Three options are immediately identifiable:

1. Schedule time for Committee members to meet to complete the survey;
2. Direct the General Manager to complete the survey and circulate the draft to Committee members for comment, prior to submission to the MoHLTC (June 30, 2005);
3. Direct the General Manager to complete the survey and submit the response to the MoHLTC, by June 30, 2005.

##### Public Health Department/Unit - Staff and Board Member Survey

All public health departments/units staff and board of health members have been invited to offer their perspective and inputs in this survey.

MoHLTC indicates that the Public Health Unit Survey and Staff and Board Members Survey are key components of the information gathering process of the Capacity Review Committee. The survey findings will be used to support the development of themes and questions for focus groups and interviews with public health stakeholders expected to begin in the fall of 2005.

Copies of the survey and user guide are being made available to all staff. A copy of the Board of Health Member Survey is attached. Hard copies will be made available at the Committee meeting.

## **Recommendation**

Committee direction is sought.

### 5. Provincial Budget Review

Prepared with the assistance of reports issued by OMSSA and AIPHA Community Health

The key theme of the budget is the continued investment in education and health, while working towards eliminating the deficit.

This Ontario budget primarily focused on Education and Health. Ministry of Children and Youth Services received increases in both operating and capital; while Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing's operating budget is reduced, their capital budget is increased. It is important to note that there are fifteen ministries whose budgets – both operating and capital are reduced / flat lined or included increases less than inflation.

A year ago the 2004/05 deficit was projected to be \$2.2 B while in fact it is \$3 B. The forecast for 2005/06 is 2.8B, 2006/07 - \$2.4 B, \$1.5 in 2007/08 and a balanced budget in 2008/09. Given that there is a \$1.5 B contingency fund there may be a balanced budget in 2007/08 if the contingency is not needed.

In 2004's budget a ministry by ministry program review was announced designed to reduce program costs by \$200 M in 2005/06, \$400 M in 2006/07 and \$750 M in 2007/08. In the past year of 2004/05 the government actually achieved savings of \$357 M – leaving \$343M to be achieved by 2007/08. The initial savings of \$357 M were found in administration and back office services. The plan for the remaining \$343 M by 2007/08 appears to be more of the same, rather than reductions in specific program spending.

Health care spending is the single largest category of the provincial budget. In 1995/96 health care consumed \$17.8 B or 38% of program spending. In 2005/06 the plan is for a \$32.9 B investment, representing 46% of program spending.

It is important to note that the government's medium-term fiscal plan is to reduce the rate of growth of health care spending to be more in line with economic and revenue growth. We could not find convincing evidence of the government's plan to achieve this goal.

#### Community Health

There were no new funds directed to public health agencies identified in this budget. The Government restated its intention to 65% cost-sharing in 2006 moving to 75% in 2007.

The budget document speaks to the Operation Health Protection 3 year action plan which will review the governance and accountability structure of public health units. This is interesting in light of the recent creation of the 14 new Local Health Integration Networks (LIHNS). New funding under the "Keeping Ontarians Healthy" banner included:

Improved community services for the elderly and people with disabilities;  
Expanded capacity for mental health counseling and crisis response;  
Electronic records for Emergency Departments; and An information system to manage patient medications.

Although it is not highlighted as such, several new investments address social determinants of health, such as housing, education, early child development and integration of new Canadians into the labour market. They have promised an additional 15,000 units of affordable housing. There are major investments in post-secondary education and investments in school infrastructure, teacher training and programs for elementary and secondary schools. Through Best Start, the number of licensed and subsidized child care spaces will be increased. If infrastructure and economic development programs proposed are effective, employment should also be affected positively.

**Recommendation**

For Committee's information.

**IN-CAMERA**

Please refer to the In-Camera Agenda of the Infrastructure and Development/Social and Health Services Committee dated June 15, 2005.