

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWACARLETON  
MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWACARLETON

---

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.           **03-07-98-0059**  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE                       17 March 1998

TO/DEST.                 Co-ordinator  
                              Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP.               Councillor Diane Holmes

SUBJECT/OBJET         **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP**

---

### **REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**For Committee discussion.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Attached please find the proposed Terms of Reference for an Environmental Health Advisory Group to be established to provide policy advice and information issues that may affect the Region.

Please put this item on the agenda for the 2 April 1998 Community Services Committee meeting.

*Approved by  
Councillor D. Holmes*

Attach. ( 1 )

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

**The mission of the Ottawa-Carleton Health Department is to promote health in the community through leadership, innovation, partnership and service.**

The Environmental Health Advisory Group is established to provide the Region with policy advice and information issues that may affect the Regional Municipality.

In examining health issues, the group will be guided by the goal of the Health Hazard Investigation of the *Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act* (attached). The definition of "health hazards" will be used as defined in the *Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act* and including biological, physical, and chemical agents, natural or manmade. Health hazard means: a) a condition of a premises; b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man; c) a solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them, that has or is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person.

### MANDATE

To advise on matters referred to it.

To advise on effectiveness of policies and programs of the Region affecting public health and the natural environment.

To advise on the protection of public health through environmental measures.

To advise on private and governmental programs affecting public health and the natural environment.

To hold public meetings, solicit advice, and undertake research.

To review development applications and provide comments on these applications/studies as part of the standard circulation procedure.

### COMPOSITION

11 residents of the RMOC

1 Regional Councillor

### TERM

3 years, not more than 2 consecutive terms

### REPORTS TO, MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDED BY

Community Services Committee

### ADMINISTRATION

The staff support for the Environmental Health Advisory Group will be provided by the Regional Health Department.

# Health Hazard Investigation

## Goal:

To prevent or reduce adverse health outcomes resulting from exposure to health hazards\* as defined in the Health Protection and Promotion Act and including biological, physical, and chemical agents, natural or manmade.

## Objectives:

1. To identify health hazards and take appropriate action.
2. To ensure community health protection and continued public health services delivery in the event of a health hazard.

## Requirements and Standards:

1. The board of health shall provide an initial response or investigation when occurrence of a disease or mortality appears to be significantly higher than expected.
2. In accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act, the board of health shall identify, investigate, and manage health hazards.
3. The board of health shall monitor health hazard management strategies annually or more frequently as required to ensure effectiveness.
4. The board of health shall consult with and provide advice to the community about health hazards when such hazards are identified.
5. The board of health shall provide educational materials to raise public awareness of health hazards.
6. The board of health shall ensure timely response to reports of health hazards through the provision of:
  - a. an on-call system that ensures 24-hour availability of board of health staff to respond;
  - b. same-day assessment and initiation of action within 24 hours if a health hazard is identified; and
  - c. a written response plan which is updated annually or more frequently as required.
7. The board of health shall report on health hazards in the community as outlined in Program Planning and Evaluation, requirements 2(f) and 3.

---

\* Health hazard means: a) a condition of a premises; b) a substance, thing, plant or animal other than man; c) a solid, liquid, gas or combination of any of them, that has or that is likely to have an adverse effect on the health of any person. (Health Protection and Promotion Act)