

Clause 22 in Report No. 5 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on March 26, 2015.

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Approval of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey
Purchase of Service Agreement

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated February 18, 2015 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services and Medical Officer of Health:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the purchase of services from the Center for Addiction and Mental Health for survey services for the additional period of 2014-2017 to an upset limit of \$55,000.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute a purchase of service agreement with the Center for Addiction and Mental Health related to the administration of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey services for the York Region student population for the additional years of 2014-2017.

2. Purpose

This report is prepared for Council in order for it to carry out its legislative duties and responsibilities as the Board of Health under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. Section 16.1 (a) of the Region's Purchasing Bylaw No. 2014-53 requires that Council approval be obtained where the term of the proposed contract exceeds five years or the term of the proposed contract exceeds an aggregate term of five years. Council authorization is requested to enter into a purchase of service agreement with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health related to the administration of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey for York Region for the survey periods covering 2014/2015 and 2016/2017.

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3. Background

Public Health uses the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey to monitor current and emerging public health issues for students

The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (Survey) is a population survey of thousands of Ontario students in grades 7-12 from over 150 elementary and high schools. Beginning in 1977, it is the longest running school survey in Canada. Run every two years by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), the survey is self-administered and is completely anonymous. The purpose of the study is to identify epidemiological trends in adolescent health and well-being. The survey provides information pertaining to the health risk behaviours, attitudes and beliefs of Ontario adolescents. It also tracks changes over time. Public health units purchasing the Survey data receive complete data for their student population on all standard survey topics, as well as content identified by Public Health.

York Region has been participating in the Survey in order to obtain York Region-specific data for grade 7-12 students since 2009

The CAMH study is conducted every two years with the goal of providing student risk behaviour and health estimates in four regions of the province (Toronto, Northern Ontario, Western Ontario and Eastern Ontario). Since 2009, CAMH has collaborated with interested public health units to enhance the health content of the Survey with additional topics of current interest to public health and to employ a modified survey design which provides data at the health unit level for participating health units.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health is responsible for making administrative arrangements with boards of education and schools for sample design and selection, questionnaire development, data collection, data entry, data weighting, and data cleaning. Public health units participating in the Survey identify and develop the public health questions in response to current and emerging health issues. The York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board have both agreed to the implementation of the 2015 cycle of the Survey within secondary schools. Data collection across the province has begun and will continue until May 2015. A number of new topics are included in the 2015 survey, including: the use of various types of electronic cigarettes, source of cannabis, stress, difficulties with attention and organization skills, and hours of sleep on school nights.

4. Analysis and Options

The Survey provides timely, consistent and comparable data, helping the Public Health Branch meet mandated requirements and minimizing the need for one-time surveys

The Ontario Public Health Standards mandate public health units to assess community health status, including monitoring trends and changes in health status of children and youth. The Survey helps health units in conducting activities such as development of program plans, tailored school services, evaluation of effectiveness of strategies and monitoring of progress of indicators towards program objectives. In conjunction with data from other sources such as the Census and the Canadian Community Health Survey, the Survey data assists public health units meet these mandated population health assessment and surveillance requirements.

Data for youth is difficult to obtain, and even more difficult to obtain is data that is comparable across regions. Entering into an agreement with CAMH ensures that the survey is carried out in a consistent manner by the same contractor for all participating health units in each data collection cycle. This enables results to be compared between different jurisdictions and allows benchmarking between peer health units.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health has a long standing relationship with the school boards to administer the surveys on behalf of Public Health and it has already received the appropriate approvals from the Board of Education's Research Ethics Committees.

The Survey data has been used extensively for program planning by York Region Public Health

Data from the Survey has been used extensively by Public Health. The survey, for instance, is the only source of data pertaining to sugar-sweetened beverages and energy drink consumption by teens. This was one of the indicators requested by York Region Public Health during the 2012/13 survey cycle and will be included in the 2014/15 cycle. The data from the original survey was used by the Healthy Secondary School Nutrition Program to help develop messaging for a nutrition poster series. The hope is that data in the upcoming survey will show whether or not there has been a change in the consumption rate of these types of drinks by youth in York Region.

The data has also been used in the development of new programs/initiatives, including: physical activity; nutrition; mental health; bullying; social media usage; technology screen time; and texting while driving.

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Link to key Council-approved plans

Ongoing use of the Survey contributes to the *2015-2019 Strategic Plan* priority to “support community health and well-being” and the objective of “protecting public health. It is an important part of York Region Public Health’s program planning and evaluation activities in the area of school health and ensures appropriate public health response to the needs of York Region students.

5. Financial Implications

To date, the total cost to the Region for Public Health to purchase the Survey data has been \$61,740. The cost for York Region Public Health to acquire the results from the Survey, for the 2014/2015 survey period is \$24,000. At this time, it is unknown what the cost will be to purchase the data for the 2016/17 cycle; however, it is expected that the total for both cycles will be no more than \$55,000 and will be cost shared 75/25 by the Province.

6. Local Municipal Impact

The biennial results of the Survey initiative assists in the planning and evaluation of school programs and services for all York Region students.

7. Conclusion

It is recommended that York Region enter into a Purchase and Service Agreement with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health for administration of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey 2014/15 and 2016/17.

For more information on this report, please contact Cathy Jaynes, Director, Healthy Living at ext. 74141 or Shelley Stalker, Manager, Epidemiology & Research, CQI at ext. 74507.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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