



MINUTES  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
April 28, 2009  
Executive Boardroom  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Goga Cho Building

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**Present:** Kevin Mcleod, A/Chair  
Karen Hamre, Secretary  
Andy Wong, Trustee  
Pawan Chugh, Trustee  
Florence Catholique, Trustee  
Tanya Gillard, Guest  
Audra Donison, Guest  
Ruth Robertson, CEO  
Les Harrison, Social Programs  
Jo-Anne Hubert, Community Health  
Tammy Brenton, EA (Recorder)

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**Regrets:** Liz Wyman  
Robert Sayine  
Ewan Affleck, Medical Director  
Paul Gard, Director, Finance

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 5:30 p.m. The Chair welcomed everyone present.

2. **OPENING PRAYER/REFLECTION**

Karen Hamre shared an expression of gratitude, followed by a minute of silent reflection.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

3.1 **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** A proposal that the presentation on cancer prevention be brought forward, was made, along with a request to include an update regarding the Swine Influenza.

**MOTION:** To amend the agenda to move the presentation forward, and include an update regarding the Swine Influenza.

3.2 **Approval of Agenda – agenda approved.**

**MOTION:** That the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board accepts the Agenda as amended.

**MOVED BY:** Karen Hamre  
**SECONDED BY:** Pawan Chugh

**ALL IN AGREEMENT – CARRIED**

**3.3 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**  
None noted.

**4. NOTICE OF TRUSTEE LIABILITY**

Ruth Robertson, YHSSA CEO, reported that all obligations are current with one outstanding lawsuit. This issue is currently with the Department of Justice.

**5. MINUTES**

**5.1 Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 31, 2009 be approved, with a note made as to an outstanding question to the Chief Financial Officer regarding NGO funding.

**MOVED BY:** Florence Catholique  
**SECONDED BY:** Andy Wong

**ALL IN AGREEMENT – CARRIED**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING**

**6.1 Board Policy – Selection of Board Members**

After discussion, it was decided to modify the policy for continuity and to include the following under the fourth bullet:

“The Board monitors its renewal cycle to ensure continuity. The Chair will notify the board members six months in advance of their term ending, to discuss their future with the Board. There will be a follow up discussion three months prior to their term ending.”

A request was made to strike “New members are reviewed based on explicit criteria.”

It was noted that a person may be given the role of trustee as part of their community council portfolio. A request was made to add, “Consultation with the communities may be part of the selection process”.

Florence Catholique abstained from voting due to a question about the MOU between the GNWT and the Band and how it pertains to the selection of Board members and relates to the proposed Board Selection Policy.

**MOTION:** That the Policy be accepted with discussed amendments.

**MOVED BY:** Karen Hamre

**SECONDED BY:** Pawan Chugh

### **ALL IN AGREEMENT – CARRIED**

#### **6.2 Social Programs - Terms of Reference**

Les Harrison briefly discussed the process of getting approval for moving forward with a Review. The front page should read draft and page seven was missing and will be forwarded to the Board.

A question was asked as to why the draft Terms of Reference was coming to the Board. It was indicated that the Board had expressed interest at a previous meeting. The Board expressed confidence that Administration was handling this issue and it would not be necessary to review this document prior to presenting it to the Department of Health and Social Services for review.

It was agreed that this should proceed as soon as possible. Les will send this to the Department on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board will forward any recommendations or comments to Les prior to this date.

A question was asked as to the amount of the RFP. It was estimated to be \$30,000.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Presentation: Cancer Prevention in Our Communities**

Tanya Gillard introduced herself and Audra Donison as dietitians working for YHSSA. Tanya thanked the Board for the invitation to give the presentation.

Tanya and Audra presented the information (see attachment). They indicated that the food served at the meeting was chosen specifically for its ability to prevent cancers.

A comment was made regarding the addition of chemicals in various products. It was indicated that there are over 4,000 chemicals in tobacco.

Discussion ensued on the lack of healthy food selection in the smaller communities. A community driven approach to the issue was suggested. The food mail opportunity was discussed. This is a program subsidized by Canada Post and the Canadian Government to give people access to healthy food at a lower shipping cost. To access this, an individual must be a member of the Yellowknife Co-op and hold a valid credit card.

A question was raised regarding a more direct approach to addressing the fact that the environment creates a lot of health problems. The option of taxing junk food was raised. It was shown that, for tobacco, increasing price by way of taxes influenced more people to stop smoking.

Discussion ensued on taxing snacks and whether there was enough support, at the ground level, for the Board to investigate this idea further.

The presenter indicated she did not feel adequately prepared to talk about junk food taxes, but will do some research on the subject.

It was asked that this issue be considered as an upcoming agenda item.

The issue of radon levels in the Lutsel K'e day care facility was raised. Ruth will talk to Stanton's Department of Environmental Health to see what had been done to monitor the radon levels.

Tanya and Audra were thanked for their presentation.

## 7.2 CEO Update

Ruth highlighted the update from R. Dana Heide concerning Board Reform. After discussion, it was decided not to ask the A/Deputy Minister to speak on this issue at the next Board Meeting.

The CEOs will be meeting during the next two days, and will have further discussion on this matter. Ruth will keep the Board updated on any developments.

A question was asked if there were any developments regarding the supplementary health benefits. Discussion will begin again, after consultation with front line people, staff and NGO.

Liz Wyman has sent a letter to the Minister to follow up with the process of acquiring a Board Member to represent N'Dilo and Dettah.

### **7.3 Swine Influenza Update**

Jo-Anne indicated that there had been a lot of concern internationally, nationally and locally about the Swine Influenza. YHSSA has made it a priority to protect staff and clients.

The Swine Influenza started in Mexico and has an incubation period of 24 hours to seven days. There have been 80 deaths in Mexico related to this flu, but no deaths, to date, outside of that country. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has rated this as a Phase Four. The Influenza has been identified as having human to human transmission.

There are currently eight confirmed cases in Canada. There has been a travel advisory to Mexico, recommending people do not travel there unless necessary.

The Authority is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Services and the Chief Medical Officer to give a consistent message to the public. All questions have been fielded to one area and the Department has set up a 1-800 number.

Public Health has set up one room to test clients. There have been no confirmed cases in Yellowknife and YHSSA is working to reduce public anxiety.

Although there is no vaccine available for this strain at this time, anti-viral medication is available, should it move beyond Stage Four.

A question was asked as to what it would take to become a Pandemic. More severity of illness and symptoms with continued escalation would prompt WHO to declare a Pandemic.

It was asked if resources were being taken from other issues, such as TB and syphilis, to deal with this. It was indicated that all programs were running normally.

Jo-Anne was thanked for her update.

## **8. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINIC UPDATE:**

### **8.1 Primary Health Care Clinic**

Les Harrison indicated that the hours of operation have been established. The clinics will be open five days a week from 8:00am to 6:00pm, with the two clinics alternating extended hours from Monday to Thursday until 9:00pm. The downtown clinic will be open Saturday from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

The design development phase is being completed and YHSSA is working towards construction.

The naming process has started. Priority one campaign is being launched with newspaper ads. This will be a long term campaign. The symbolism, in the use the human hand, is a way of reflection with the concept being this clinic is for everybody.

A question was asked if cultural representation was being considered in terms of design development. YHSSA is trying to establish a cultural committee. Because of time constraints, it is challenging. Décor is being looked at in terms of making it more reflective of culture. A suggestion was made to involve Stanton's cultural elders group. Ruth will follow up with this.

Fear of having a super clinic atmosphere was expressed. The need to make it user friendly was discussed.

Les was thanked for his update.

**9. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the YHSSA Board will be held May 26, 2009.

It was decided that the Board will meet prior to the MLA/Board Luncheon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Goga Cho Boardroom on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.

A presentation on Mental Health in the Authority was suggested for the next regular meeting, along with an update on the Swine Influenza. A status report on the budget process was also requested. There was a request to add the snack tax to the next agenda.

**10. ADJOURNMENT @ 8:00 pm.**

**MOTION:** That this meeting of the Yellowknife Health and Social Service Board be adjourned.

**MOVED BY:** Andy Wong  
**SECONDED BY:** Karen Hamre

**ALL IN AGREEMENT – CARRIED**

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Tammy Brenton  
Recording Secretary

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Kevin McLeod  
A/Board Chair