

LHIN would divide regional health care

Networks would split Halton into four areas

Regional council is delivering a strong message to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to preserve Halton's health care system when implementing its recently-announced Local Health Integrated Networks (LHINs).

The plan states that 14 networks would be created across Ontario as community-based organizations with a mandate to plan, co-ordinate, integrate, manage and fund health care at the local level within defined geographic boundaries.

But these networks divide the Region up into four out of the 14 areas — something that's not sitting well with regional councillors for fear of what it could do to the quality of health care.

Regional Councillor and Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale brought forward a motion Wednesday calling on the minister of health and long-term care to establish 16 networks, instead of 14, resulting in the Region being in one network.

"I'm clearly trying to say Halton should stay in one local health integrated net-

work," Ms Mulvale said.

Council also took issue with the lack of consultation the ministry has undertaken on LHINs and is recommending in a motion that any future discussions include intensive consultation with the Region, all Halton health care providers, other regions and municipalities across Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

The lengthy motion approved by council Wednesday also calls on the ministry to place a strong emphasis on illness prevention and consider local service delivery initiatives as key components to any health care system transformation.

Regional Chair Joyce Savoline will soon be contacting Halton's MPPs to arrange a meeting to discuss the proposed LHIN model.

The ministry identified that LHINs would co-ordinate service delivery, but clinical services would not be provided by LHINs. Existing health care service provider organizations will continue to deliver the services. At this time, there are no details as to what the LHINs will specifically do.

For more information, contact the Region at (905) 825-6000 or visit www.region.halton.on.ca or www.health.gov.on.ca.

Region to spend \$10,000 on clean air initiatives

Regional council approved \$10,000 in funding to support the initiatives of the GTA Clean Air Council Wednesday.

The council's main goal is to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss issues of concern and participate in strategies to improve air quality, a report from Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Bob Nosal explained.

The funds will go toward research on issues relating to air quality and will also support the Region's participation as a member of the council.

Dr. Nosal's report noted that Halton will

have a chance to take part in an air quality modelling project, which will involve sharing and acquiring local data that in turn increases the potential to improve estimates of the public health impacts associated with poor air quality.

"Participating in a GTA-wide air quality modelling project is an opportunity to learn more on both a local and regional scale," Dr. Nosal's report said.

The Clean Air Council has members from all levels of government in the GTA. At meetings, Halton is represented by health department staff.

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 Saturday, December 25th Closed
 Monday, December 27th Closed
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