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DATE 15 February 1999

TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Council

FROM/EXP. Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH ALGONQUIN COLLEGE
AND CITÉ COLLÉGIALE**

Information Previously Distributed

To be listed on the Community
Services Agenda, 4 Mar 99

PURPOSE

The following information is provided with respect to the partnerships and joint activities that exist between Health Department and the two Dental Departments at Algonquin College and Cité Collégiale, and in response to comments from Councillor Molly McGoldrick-Larsen about possible partnerships in the community, particularly with Algonquin College, in support of dental education.

BACKGROUND

The Health Department plays a unique role in orientating dental assisting and dental hygiene students training in the Ottawa area. This year, both community colleges will send approximately 40 students to the Department for training and orientation to public health practice as part of their course requirements. Due to the time constraints and the large amount of time devoted to clinical training, students are limited to one day by their respective institutions. Although additional time has been requested, the rigors of preparing students to pass their qualifying exams, within the allotted one or two year programs, limits the time available for additional activities.

As mentioned, a large portion of the students' time is devoted to clinical activities and the Health Department refers as many clients as possible to the college to have their teeth cleaned. A small number of children are also referred to special clinics that are periodically run as part of continuing education courses; however, the colleges only accept families who are in reasonable dental health and require no active treatment. As a training centre, individuals with more severe or complex needs are not suitable for students who are learning.

CONCLUSION

Regrettably, as a result of the large number of referrals, both Colleges can accept and provide only a fraction of the total requests made, leaving the balance to be provided by the Health Department. As an indication of demand, the Department was informed in November 1998 that the dental programs at Algonquin and at la Cité Collégiale would not be able to accommodate any new patients for at least one year (Fall 1999) at the earliest.

Approved by

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