

Vancouver, B. C.,

November 9th, 1928.

The Mayor and Council-elect,

City of Vancouver,

B. C.

Gentlemen:-

In view of the approaching amalgamation of the City of Vancouver and the Municipalities of South Vancouver and Point Grey, when it will be necessary to take over and co-ordinate the work of the several Health Departments, I have the honour to give you herein what in my opinion are the minimum requirements for Health Services for the whole district.

In drawing up my recommendations, I have not lost sight of the fact that there are certain services, for which the City pays, which do not come under the control or direction of the Health Department, nor do I suggest that they should do so at the present time, as they are separate and distinct services, although under the larger scheme which I am also submitting to cover the further eventual needs of the amalgamated area, it may be necessary to include these. They are as follows:-

Rotary Clinic for Diseases of the Chest.

This is under the direction of Dr. H. A. Rawlings, who is a specialist in tuberculosis and chest diseases. The Clinic is governed by a joint-committee of the City Council and the Rotary Club, under a special agreement entered into at the time the Clinic building was erected.

I would recommend that this arrangement continue for the time being, with only such changes as will lead to greater co-operation and follow-up work for prevention as well as cure of this disease.

In the larger scheme also submitted, this clinic and its co-relation with the proposed Bureau of Communicable Diseases should be more intimate, and probably it ultimately should be incorporated with that Bureau. Thus the contacts exposed to infection of cases found at the clinic would come directly under the Health Department and the prevention of the disease as well as its cure be provided. Curative measures alone provide only for the sick individual without reducing the disease. Only by preventive measures can the constant inflow of new cases be diminished and the expense in cash and lives be reduced.

School Medical Department.

This is under the direction of Dr. Harold White, who is specially trained in Public Health work. The work of a school medical department is very highly specialized, and it appears to me that, for the present, it can best be carried out under the Board of School Trustees. In the larger scheme as designed for the future, this should be entirely a Health Department matter.

The responsibility for the control of infectious diseases, however, both in schools and elsewhere, remains and must remain the duty of the Health Department.

Re Bacteriological Laboratory.

In view of the fact that the Provincial Laboratory at the Vancouver General Hospital is overloaded with work and is therefore unable to carry out all the requirements of the Health Department in connection with the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, I would request the services of a fully qualified Dairy Inspector who is trained in the bacteriological examination of milk so that this work can be done in the Health Department laboratory.

Co-ordination of Staffs.

In view of the policy of the various Councils that the employees already in office in the various districts should be taken care of as far as possible, all present incumbents, where suitable, who are engaged anywhere in the area in Public Health work, will be used in whatever capacity they are best adapted for.

Any additional appointments however that may be made, or any replacements, should be made only by the Medical Health Officer with special reference to technical and other qualifications, as already provided for by the Consolidated By-laws. All such appointees must be specially trained and qualified in Public Health work for the positions to which they are appointed.

To avoid any misunderstanding, I would point out that the following medical services are not the function of a Health Department, which is concerned with preventive work

only and not with the treatment of disease:-

Police Surgeon and Insanity Commitments.

These are not the duty of a Health Officer but require the services of a physician specially trained in this class of work. The practice has been to call upon the Health Department for assistance in commitments, and for that reason I suggest that the Police Surgeon be empowered to engage a specialist in mental diseases as consultant in all cases for commitment to the asylum.

Medical Attendance for Indigent Sick.

This now comes under the direction of the Relief Officer and should remain there. The care and medical attention of the indigent sick is not the function of a Health Department.

The Relief Officer, by investigation, assures himself as to the circumstances of the sick person and then, if necessary, directs a physician to make the visit. This feature of the City's medical service can best be handled by the Relief Officer.

The following is an explanation of the work and requirements of the Department:-

Office Staff.

I would recommend that a junior clerk be added to the staff. It is expected that there will be a considerable increase in the office work and the City Analyst is asking for the services of a junior clerk to take care of the detail work of his department, which will release him and his

assistant for their more important duties.

With this addition I believe the office staff will be able to carry on - at least for the present.

Health Inspection.

District Inspection.

The general sanitation of the City is taken care of by five Inspectors, one of whom is the Senior Sanitary Inspector who directs the work, in addition to looking after his own district.

It is recognized that this section of the department is considerably undermanned, and has been so for some years, as the Inspectors have to spend so much time investigating complaints over a large area that they are unable to attend to the general patrol work necessary to keep their respective districts in good order.

Additional Staff.

To properly take care of the increased area, with its widely scattered settlements and limited means of transportation, six additional Inspectors would be required, making eleven in all.

Transportation.

It will be necessary to have a car at the disposal of this branch in order to take care of special calls to outlying parts of the City off the lines of transportation. By this means much time would be saved.

Lodging House Inspection.

There is at present one Lodging House Inspector, and it is not proposed to ask for any additional assistance for this purpose, although the problem is becoming more acute from year to year. Practically whole districts of former residences are now converted for lodging house purposed.

I would, however, recommend that transportation be provided for the Lodging House Inspector, and suggest that an allowance be made him for the use of his private car, which he has used for some years for City work, practically without compensation.

Infectious Diseases.

This branch will, as at present, be under the supervision of the Assistant M. H. O.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed.</u>
Quarantine Officer (in charge)	1	1
Assistant Quarantine Officers	2	4
Night Clerk	1	1
Relief Night Clerk (one day a week)	1	1
Ambulance Drivers	1	2
Relief Ambulance Driver (one day a week)	1	0

Inspectors.

The work of the Inspectors will be under the immediate direction of the Quarantine Officer, and on account of the large additional territory to be covered, two more Assistant Quarantine Officers will be required - making four in all.

They will receive their instructions from the Senior Quarantine Officer and will operate from the central office, reporting by telephone from time to time during the day for further directions.

Night Clerk.

The Night Clerk is on duty from 5 to 10 o'clock each evening and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. He is relieved one day a week and on holidays.

Ambulance Driver.

It will be necessary to employ another full time Ambulance Driver who will take the place of the present relief driver.

In addition to driving the ambulance and helping to handle the stretcher cases, the drivers are employed in driving the delivery car used in the removal of bedding and effects from infected houses to the steam sterilizer and returning the sterilized articles to the houses. This work will be greatly increased in the larger area, not only on account of the many additional cases to be handled, but also the long distances to be travelled.

Transportation.

The Department has at present an ambulance and an express car; the latter, in addition to the removal of bedding etc., is used by the Inspectors for quarantining, fumigating and releasing houses and other visits they may have to make.

Two more cars will be necessary, one of which should have an express body and the other could be a run-about. These would be driven by the Inspectors, and would greatly facilitate the work - especially in the outlying districts.

Steam Sterilizer.

The present steam sterilizer, which is owned by the City, was originally installed in connection with the incinerator on Union Street. When this ceased to operate, the sterilizer was removed and installed at the Vancouver General Hospital. This is now very much overworked, and with the increased area it will be impossible for the one sterilizer to handle the work, and it will be necessary to arrange to install another at some more convenient place.

Milk & Food Inspection.

The present staff of the Milk & Food Division is quite inadequate to the needs of the City, and if the thorough system of inspection which is at present in force in the City is to be extended to South Vancouver and Point Grey, considerable additions will be necessary, as follows:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed.</u>
Food Inspectors	1	2
City Veterinarian (Meat Inspection)	1	2
Restaurant & Bakeshop Inspectors	1	2
Milk Inspectors	1	3

To properly cope with the work of the larger area, there should be two Food Inspectors; two Meat Inspectors; two Restaurant & Bakeshop Inspectors and three Milk Inspectors.

Very little work has been attempted either in South Vancouver or Point Grey to control the dairies and the milk supply, and there are a great number of small dairies and cow-keepers whose premises will not be able to comply with the existing requirements of the City by-laws. To bring these into line will be a work of time, and the subsequent inspections over such a wide area will require the services of three men, at least.

Similarly the food stores, meat shops, restaurants and bakeshops in the new area will require special attention to bring them into line with the requirements of the City, and this will all be in addition to carrying on the present system of inspection in the City as at present constituted.

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY.

The City Analyst does not ask for any additional help in the chemical laboratory except the services of a Junior Clerk to relieve him and his assistant of some of the detail work which takes them from their more important duties. This was dealt with under the heading of "Office Staff."

I am of the opinion, however, that the time has come when the bacteriological examination of milk and water should be conducted at the City's own laboratory, by a competent Bacteriologist.

The work is at present being done at the Provincial Laboratory at the Vancouver General Hospital, but, on account of

the great volume of work handled there, it is found impossible to give the City the service that is required.

Only a comparatively small number of samples of milk are examined bacteriologically each month, and this is not sufficient to keep a proper control over the cleanliness of the milk supply, and with the large number of new dairies coming under inspection by the Department in the larger area, it will be absolutely necessary to provide better laboratory facilities.

Division of Child Hygiene.

This Department is operated under the supervision of the Assistant Medical Health Officer, who directs the general policy and arranges for the attendance of doctors at the well Baby Clinics. This service on the part of the medical men is purely voluntary.

Staff - Present.

The staff consists of three nurses, one of whom is in charge and directs the details of the work.

Staff - Proposed.

It is proposed to add three more to the staff to take care of the needs of South Vancouver and Point Grey - making a total of six nurses in all.

Clinics.

Vancouver. Four Well Baby Clinics a week are now held in Vancouver, and it is not proposed to add to this number. There is also a Sick Children's Clinic held at the Vancouver General Hospital.

CITY OF VANCOUVER - HEALTH DEPARTMENT
PROPOSED STAFF FOR THE GREATER VANCOUVER AREA.

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed.</u>
<u>Administrative.</u>		
Medical Health Officer	1	1
Assistant M. H. O. (Part Time) in charge of Infectious Diseases & Division of Child Hygiene.	1	1
District Medical Health Officers	0	2
Senior Clerk	1	1
Junior Clerk	1	1
Stenographer	1	1
<u>Health Inspection.</u>		
Senior Health Inspector	1	1
Health Inspectors	4	10
Lady Health Inspector (Graduate Nurse)	1	1
<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>		
Quarantine Officer	1	1
Assistant Quarantine Officers	2	4
Night Clerk	1	1
Ambulance Drivers	1	2
Relief Night Clerk (one day a week)	1	1
Relief Ambulance Driver (one day a week)	1	0
<u>Milk & Food Inspection.</u>		
Food Inspectors	1	2
City Veterinarian (Meat Inspector)	1	2
Restaurant & Bakeshop Inspectors	1	2
Milk Inspectors	1	3

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed.</u>
<u>Analytical Laboratory.</u>		
City Analyst (Immediate supervision of Food Department)	1	1
Assistant Analyst	1	1
Extra skilled assistance as required	1	1
Laboratory Helper	1	1
Office Boy	0	1
<u>Division of Child Hygiene.</u>		
Nurse in Charge	1	1
Nurses	2	5
<u>Smallpox Hospital.</u>		
Caretaker and Male Nurse	1	1
Assistant Caretaker & Engineer	1	1
Graduate Nurse as required.		
TOTAL	32	51

Vancouver, B. C.,

November 9th, 1928.

To the Mayor and Council-elect,

City of Vancouver,

B. C.

Gentlemen:-

As the City of Vancouver grows in size to a population of 500,000 or more, which may reasonably be anticipated within a short period of years, it will be necessary to develop a larger and more comprehensive scheme for the organization of the Health Department so that it will include all the various preventive health services under one head, who shall be the City Medical Health Officer.

The attached chart indicates in brief how the different branches of the Department would be organized and the work that would fall to each sub-head.

Each sub-head would have his assistants and would be responsible to the Medical Health Officer for the proper performance of the work allotted to him, and for the duties of those under him. The sub-departments proposed are as follows:-

1. Bureau of Communicable Diseases.
2. Bureau of Child Hygiene.
3. Bureau of Public Health Nursing.
4. Bureau of Laboratories.
5. Bureau of Sanitation.
6. Bureau of Vital Statistics.

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No attempt has been made to enter fully into the details of the duties as it is sufficient, for preliminary discussion, to indicate the broad outline of the activities which would fall to each sub-head.

I am of the opinion that the principle of operating the Department from a central authority, as outlined above, is the correct one to adopt.

It is further suggested that the City should be divided into Health Districts and that a whole time District Medical Health Officer, specially trained and qualified in Public Health work, should be placed in charge of each district and made responsible to the City Medical Health Officer for the operation of every branch of the work in his particular district.

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Curdick
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER.

CITY OF VANCOUVER

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICE

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.	BUREAU OF CHILD HYGIENE (SCHOOLS)	BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING.	BUREAU OF LABORATORY
<u>Communicable diseases -</u> Their suppression and prevention. <u>Laboratory</u> for bacterial control of disease <u>Serums and Antitoxins -</u> distribution and administration. <u>Occupational diseases -</u> Dangerous Trades	<u>Medical Inspection</u> of School Children. Correction of Defects. General School Hygiene. <u>Infant Hygiene.</u> <u>Pre-School Work.</u> <u>Child Labor.</u>		<u>Chemical</u> <u>Bacterial</u> for milk <u>City Veter</u> Meat I Burche <u>Food Ins</u> <u>Milk Co</u>
<u>Tuberculosis Clinic.</u> <u>V.D. Clinic.</u>			

CITY OF VANCOUVER, B.C.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER.

BUREAU OF HEALTH NURSING.	BUREAU OF LABORATORIES.	BUREAU OF SANITATION	BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
	<u>Chemical Laboratory.</u> <u>Bacterial Laboratory</u> for milk and water <u>City Veterinarian.</u> Meat Inspection Butcher Shops, etc. <u>Food Inspection.</u> <u>Milk Control.</u>	<u>Nuisances</u> - their investigation and abatement. <u>Water Supply</u> - Purity and purification. <u>Sewage</u> and sewer systems. <u>Inspection of Buildings.</u> <u>Lodging Houses</u> - Approval of plans.	<u>Vital Statistics</u> - Registration of births, deaths and marriages. Educational literature, lectures, etc. <u>Clerical work</u> - Correspondence, reports, etc. Records of diseases. Financial.

