Reviewer's report

Title: Adaptation to Climate Change in the Ontario Public Health Sector

Version: 1 Date: 20 February 2012

Reviewer: Gordon A McBean

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions
There is some inconsistencies in the way references are given in text that need to be addressed.
The Health Protection and Promotion Act (1990) needs a reference.
On page 4, the last sentence of the first paragraph is missing a verb.

Discretionary Revisions
This is a good paper addressing an important issue and its publication is recommended. The paper meets the criteria laid out in the guidance for reviewers.
The following are some questions and/or issues for consideration in terms of revisions that are suggested for the final version.
1. The focus of the paper is on the Ontario Public Health Sector and all the people interviewed were in the public health sectors. For an issue like climate change adaptation, the views of those outside the sector, such as finance, environment, media-pollsters and the general public, will greatly influence the ability to actually adapt. The paper identified a lack of resources as a constraint; it is perhaps the topic of another paper, but it would be useful to have analysis of what those other sectors will support and under what scenarios are resources likely to be provided.
2. It was also noted that top-down support was needed. Some further discussion of this may be appropriate.
3. Is there literature or studies on adaptation success or otherwise in other sectors to compare with that in the health sector?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.