

**From:** Debbie Bruce  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017 9:59 PM  
**To:** Kirkelos, Julie;  
**Cc:** Lancaster, Blair  
**Subject:** Re: Committee of the Whole - May 1st

So...where do I begin...

Firstly, this is a 'Health and Safety' issue.

Secondly, anaphylaxis is recognized as a disability by the Ontario Human Rights Commission and every effort should be made to accommodate them and keep them safe.

The City could have saved considerable time and effort if they had involved someone like myself, with 30 years experience on working on 'reasonable risk' programs, from the very beginning - before any reports were worked on.

I could have provided a more streamlined approach.

First, we always need to refer to "peanuts/nuts" as one entity. Most are allergic to both peanuts/nuts some are only allergic to nuts. Nuts must also be avoided due to the possible cross-contamination at the manufacturing level. **Peanuts/nuts account for 68-90% of the fatal and near-fatal reactions - depending on the study quoted.**

'Peanut/Nut Free" should never even be talked about. It is an impossible objective. The objective is always "to reduce the risk wherever reasonably possible."

In my opinion, the objective of the program should be to replace peanut/nut products with an alternative snack.

I would call the program an "Allergy Aware Program".

Why are children and patrons of the facilities treated differently from children attending camps and special programs? Is their safety less important.

Peanut/Nut products in vending machines can be replaced with alternate products. It was done in the schools. There is no decrease in sales if you simply replace the snack with something else.

The report quoted potential lost sales from concessions and banquet services. It is beyond me, how you could lose money by making the food safer for more people to eat...

Vendors could be approached, in a spirit of shared responsibility and a desire to increase business by eliminating peanuts/nuts from their products. It would also be a

cost-saving initiative. Nuts are expensive. Life-threatening allergies is not a life-style choice - it is a life-threatening medical conditions that has become an increasing health concern. Working on providing food that is safe for the allergic patron, their family and friends would actually result in increased business and I think this would be a desired outcome. This condition is not going away and it is just good business to appeal to as many customers as possible.

Regarding having Epinephrine Auto Injectors on hand...  
WSIB requires all businesses - including restaurants - to have first aid trained workers. There is at least one on every shift depending on the size of the business.

All of your city buildings would have at least one person who is first aid certified - including CPR/AED and Anaphylaxis/EpiPen training.

Last week, I confirmed with St. John Ambulance that all of the major, respected first aid trainers provide

Anaphylaxis training - and includes how to administer an epinephrine auto injector.

[http://www.wsib.on.ca/WSIBPortal/faces/WSIBArticlePage?\\_afGUID=835502100635000267&\\_afLoop=2036708573350000&\\_afWindowMode=0&\\_afWindowId=null#%40%3F\\_afWindowId%3Dnull%26\\_afLoop%3D2036708573350000%26\\_afWindowMode%3D0%26\\_fGUID%3D835502100635000267%26\\_adf.ctrl-state%3Dw79frql64\\_29](http://www.wsib.on.ca/WSIBPortal/faces/WSIBArticlePage?_afGUID=835502100635000267&_afLoop=2036708573350000&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=null#%40%3F_afWindowId%3Dnull%26_afLoop%3D2036708573350000%26_afWindowMode%3D0%26_fGUID%3D835502100635000267%26_adf.ctrl-state%3Dw79frql64_29)

WSIB requires the first aid kit be checked quarterly...Epinephrine Auto Injectors could be an extension of the first aid kit - just like AEDs and checked at the same time.

Also, EpiPen provides a free expiry notification program.

<https://www.epipen.ca/en/epipen-resources/epipen-expiration-reminder-service>

EpiPen also provides a free, on line training program.

<http://www.epipen.ca/en/epipen-resources/epipen-101>

They also have free posters available on their website. There are more printed materials available there too...

[http://www.epipen.ca/sites/default/files/English\\_Poster\\_11x17.PDF](http://www.epipen.ca/sites/default/files/English_Poster_11x17.PDF)

As far as liability when the public at large responds...I can not believe the narrow thought process of the people reviewing this issue. It is exactly the same issue as AEDs or anyone responding to any kind of medical emergency anywhere - be it a car crash or someone fainting somewhere. First of all, the business is going to have someone with first aid training who can respond. They are already covered by whatever covers them when they respond with the first aid kit and the AED. It is usually the Good Samaritan Act - provided your motive is to rescue and do no harm.

Secondly, in the case of the public at large, no one is forcing anyone to come forward and administer the EpiPen.

A person who would come forward - would do so willingly - because they feel they could help. It would most likely be someone like me who has had first aid training which included CPR/AED and Anaphylaxis/EpiPen training.

The person with first aid training would respond the way they were trained.

Anaphylaxis is the only medical condition that you treat first - and then call 911. If all you do is call 911 - someone may end up needing to use the AED on the person. They could die...

The allergy specialists and emergency room Chiefs fully support this. The consequences of **not** treating is the person could die. The worst that can happen if you treat unnecessarily is the person will have a temporary adrenaline rush. The benefits far outweigh this. <http://www.bttoronto.ca/videos/how-to-use-an-epipen/>

Bottom line is "EpiPens Save Lives".

I would like to think that a city would be more concerned about their young children in the community not being able to fully participate and feeling wanted, safe, supported and cared for in their own community.

We pay lip-service to caring about the mental health of our young people. But imagine what it must feel like to suddenly experience an episode of fighting for your life because of accidental exposure - to know you are always only one mistake away from a life-threatening medical emergency and to know that you are not important enough to your community for them to try to reduce the risk a little bit for you. Imagine the emotional toll...

There are simple solutions for those who are motivated to make a difference and it is truly gratifying when you know you have made a difference in even one person's life.

When I first convinced the Toronto Blue Jays to provide special seating so our children with life-threatening peanut allergies could watch a game and not have to worry about people shelling peanuts around them, I was terrified no one would come.

Well, the games sold out right away. There was a little boy, who had come all the way from the US so he could see his very first baseball game. He ran up to me...someone he didn't even know...and gave me a great big hug and thanked me.

I still tear up when I think about that moment. I will never forget it - and it makes all of this worth while - because people just don't realize what these kids go through day in and day out...

Debbie Bruce  
Mississauga Anaphylaxis Education Network  
Director, Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative