



City of Hamilton

CITY COUNCIL ADDENDUM

19-016

Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 5:00 P.M.

Council Chambers, Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

5. COMMUNICATIONS

*5.9 Correspondence requesting that Council withdraw their support for negotiations with Cardus and their proposed use of Balfour House:

*5.9.a Robert Brosius

*5.9.b Ruth Cameron

*5.9.c Robert Brosius

*5.9.d Michael Demone

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 1 of General Issues Committee Report 19-017.

*5.10 Correspondence from Michael Van Pelt, President and CEO, Cardus respecting the Proposal for the Adaptive Re-Use of Balfour House/Chedoke Estate.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 1 of General Issues Committee Report 19-017.

- *5.11 Correspondence from the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing respecting the launching of a consultation on potential changes to the delivery of building code services.

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development for appropriate action.

8. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

- *8.1 Amendment to the Terms of the Reference of the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Balfour House

From: r.a. brosius

Sent: September 23, 2019 8:33 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Balfour House

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I understand that City Council is about to vote to enter into negotiations with Cardus on their use of Balfour House, and blocking any other groups from consideration.

Based on the content that Cardus has published on their website, I am concerned that the City is negotiating with them at all, much less giving their proposal preferential treatment. Some of the content that I have seen is homophobic, misogynist, racist and climate change denying. As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote AGAINST this proposal, and AGAINST dealing with Cardus. I urge you to support a more open search for parties whose philosophy is inclusive, as should be the policy of the City of Hamilton.

Thank you.

Robert Brosius

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Cardus / Balfour House discussion at Hamilton City Council

From: P. Ruth Cameron

Sent: September 24, 2019 8:24 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Cardus / Balfour House discussion at Hamilton City Council

I ask that the clerk add my communication to the agenda for the 25 September 2019 meeting of council.

Ruth Cameron

24 September 2019

To the Mayor and members of Hamilton City Council,

I am contacting you again, subsequent to my communication from September 3rd 2019, to insist that you *withdraw* your support for negotiations with Cardus, their proposed use of Balfour House, and refrain from welcoming known right wing anti-LGBTQ think tanks into the city of Hamilton. Such actions on the part of city council are in direct opposition to your purported values of inclusiveness and the declaration that Hamilton is a city for all. It is necessary and imperative that our municipal political leadership understand and demonstrate long term vision in engaging with and attracting businesses that will bring good jobs that facilitate a better quality of life for workers in Hamilton, rather than businesses where the work directly creates a climate of harm impacting multiple marginalized groups in our community.

Again, I request to know what series of actions and interventions city council will undertake to mitigate the climate of hate and hate crimes in Hamilton.

Sincerely,

Ruth Cameron

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FW: Balfour House

From: r.a. brosius
Sent: September 25, 2019 10:09 AM
To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Re: Balfour House

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing again because I am appalled that City Council is even thinking about the possibility of dealing with Cardus, and am fearful that they are going to charge ahead recklessly, ignoring the symbolism of contracting openly with such a despicable organization.

Please take a moment to read this article from Raise the Hammer. Please take a few moments to think about the significance of the city's possible approval of this project.

How is it possible that Council could contemplate giving approval to their stance, or offer them a base of operations from which to conduct their political campaigns?

<https://raisethehammer.org/article/3699>

Robert Brosius

From: Robert Brosius
Sent: September 23, 2019 8:33 PM
To: mayor@hamilton.ca
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Balfour House

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I understand that City Council is about to vote to enter into negotiations with Cardus on their use of Balfour House, and blocking any other groups from consideration.

Based on the content that Cardus has published on their website, I am concerned that the City is negotiating with them at all, much less giving their proposal preferential treatment. Some of the content that I have seen is homophobic, misogynist, racist and climate change denying. As one of your constituents, I urge you to vote AGAINST this proposal, and AGAINST dealing with Cardus. I urge you to support a more open search for parties whose philosophy is inclusive, as should be the policy of the City of Hamilton.

Thank you.

Robert Brosius

Michael Demone
21 King Street West, Suite 506
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 2G9

September 25, 2019

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the City entering into negotiations with Cardus for the lease of a public asset.

As a citizen, tax payer, and business owner, I strongly object to the City entering into any business relationship with, including extending public assets, religious organizations, let alone an organization with a history of offensive discrimination and bias towards minorities, and one whose primary goal is to undermine the foundations of Canadian democracy.

Cardus proudly states that their goal is to challenge Canada's secular, pluralist character by influencing and injecting religious values and doctrine into every aspect of Canadian life. They have vigorously criticized the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, called for the abolishment of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and relentlessly pursue a hierarchy of rights in which religious freedoms take priority over other fundamental rights.

Much of their 'research' and material contains language and conclusions that are undeniably racist, homophobic, misogynistic, anti-union, anti-pro-choice, Islamophobic.

Beyond my personal and moral objections, a clear and verifiable history of questionable material and associations from Cardus activities could leave the City vulnerable to litigation under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

It is without doubt that should the City enter into a business relationship with an organization like Cardus, many community interests from labour, anti-racist groups, LGBT, pro-choice groups, women's rights, public school advocates, and others, will mount a series of legal challenges against the City.

I would like to draw your attention to just one example of highly questionable material and connections from Cardus that should prompt you to carefully consider the suitability of the City entering into any sort of legal or financial relationship with them:

Anti-immigrant and racist

Keep 43 is an organization was formed around Section 43 of the Criminal Code and deals with spanking children. The website of this group promotes a book called "Sweden: A Canary in a Coal Mine: How the Abolition of Traditional Parenting Ultimately Destroys Society". This book

includes passages that blame African immigrants for “replacing the Rule of Law” with “tribal law” and concludes that “Sweden to become a Third World Country by 2030” due to “societal decline with increasing violence and dysfunction”.

Cardus is a sponsor of this group and also contributed material to their website.

Source: <<https://www.keep43.ca/whats-new/>>

Please keep in mind that it is the legal and moral responsibility of City Councillors to ensure that municipal processes and decisions respect the human rights of all community members. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing requires municipalities to observe and respect the Ontario Human Rights Code:

Elected municipal representatives are not exempt from the [Ontario Human Rights] Code – they have a legal duty to not discriminate, and they are elected to represent all of their constituents.”
— Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2012

“Local governments also play a key role in the promotion and protection of the rights of individuals belonging to particular groups. The rights of persons at risk of discrimination must be carefully addressed at the local level, not least because local governments deliver services directly to such individuals and can inadvertently become a party to intersecting patterns of discrimination.”

— Local Government and Human Rights, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2019.

Understanding how Cardus operates and what their interests are requires one to look beyond the slick website and scholarly language. It requires effort and sophistication to decipher their true intentions. These interests are in direct conflict with ensuring the rights and dignity of the citizens of Hamilton.

I urge you not to vote in favour of entering into negotiations with Cardus.

Respectfully,

Michael Demone

September 24, 2019

Michael Van Pelt, President and CEO
Cardus
185 Young St
Hamilton ON L8N 1V9

His Worship Mayor Fred Eisenberger, and
City Councillors and
Janette Smith, City Manager and
Office of the City Clerk
Hamilton City Hall, 2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

RE: Proposal for the Adaptive Re-Use of Balfour House/Chedoke Estate (PED19168) (Ward 14)

Your Worship Mayor Eisenberger,

It was good to speak with you and many other City of Hamilton representatives by phone yesterday.

In response to your request, I have taken the time to review all of the documents noted below that guide the day-to-day operations of the City of Hamilton. I can confirm that Cardus complies with all of these:

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/Const/page-15.html>

Ontario Human Rights Code: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>

Ontario Employment Act: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/00e41>

City of Hamilton Equity and Inclusion Policy:

<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2016-03-11/equityandinclusionpolicy-summary.pdf>

Cardus Record

I would like to add that Cardus has an impressive record in terms of building an open and tolerant society in Canada.

We lead some of the most respectful and thoughtful discussions on faith and public life in the country. Given the tenor of political rhetoric in North America, I hope you will see that Cardus has contributed to healthy dialogue that crosses political, religious, and philosophical divisions in a true effort to bring together people from different perspectives and backgrounds in deep pluralism. For example:

- Cardus was invited by the Conference Board of Canada to present on workplace diversity standards to the Human Resources leaders of Canada's largest companies: [Conference Board of Canada's Council on Inclusive Work Environments](#)
- In November of 2017, our Dr. Andrew Bennett (Canada's former religious freedom ambassador) was invited to testify before the House of Commons heritage committee as it studied the issue of

Islamophobia. [In his testimony](#), Dr. Bennett described the hatred of Muslims as something “that is bred from three evils: ignorance, indifference, and fear,” arguing that all three evils “must be addressed at the level of our own communities.” He also condemned other hatreds, such as those based on race, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

- Cardus celebrated Canada’s 150th anniversary with a series of multi-faith activities, one of which was a summit of millennials of various faiths from all over Canada, resulting in [a joint open letter](#) and a [beautiful commemorative book](#).
- Cardus has been an outspoken critic of Bill 21 and the outsized harm it would cause to minority groups in Canada, including through this [op-ed in the Globe and Mail](#).
- In November of 2018, the Cardus Religious Freedom Institute (CRFI) held a symposium at the Ottawa Torah Centre on the intersection of civil law and Jewish law, and published the papers of [three prominent Jewish experts](#).
- In January of 2017, the CRFI published a paper by [Muslim legal scholar Faisal Bhabha](#) on the intersection of multiculturalism and religious freedom.
- Cardus started a literary prize [for faith-inspired writing](#). The first winner for poetry was Rowda Mohammed, a Somali-born Canadian Muslim poet.

Cardus Philosophy

Cardus’s mission is to apply the wisdom of 2,000 years of Christian social thought to contemporary issues. Our core belief is that every human person has dignity and worth because they are created in the image of God. All of the work we undertake seeks to promote the dignity of every person, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability, race, or creed.

Our belief in the dignity and worth of all people is evident in our work:

- We have funded and participated in [research with the Angus Reid Institute](#) that concluded “Visible minorities, Indigenous Canadians, those with mobility challenges, and LGBTQ2 individuals are all noticeably more likely to deal with social isolation and loneliness than the general population average.”
- Our research with the Angus Reid Institute has paid special attention to the concerns, challenges, and experiences of [immigrants to Canada](#).

In closing, I am willing to meet or speak with any councillor or staff member to help make your near unanimous decision on Balfour a reality!

Respectfully,



Michael Van Pelt
President and CEO, Cardus
(905)464-3687
mvanpelt@cardus.ca

www.openbalfour.ca

Enclosed: Excerpts from [Canada 150 Millennial book by Cardus](#):





What are you bringing back to your community as a result of this experience?

The Faith in Canada 150 Millennial Summit provided me with a new appreciation for how other faith groups struggle with both faith in the public square and the challenge of being faithful during an era of secularism and occasional hostility toward faith groups. Sometimes, when we are singularly focused on our own issues, we are unable to see the others dealing with the same challenges. There was a sense of commonality and ally-ship at the conference, and I left feeling as though I could offer my community a fresh perspective.

How has your view changed regarding the role of faith in common and public life?

I would not say my view of faith in common and public life has changed. Instead, I would say I have gained a new understanding and appreciation for how other Canadians live their faith publicly and interact with the public square. The summit's spirit of sharing and storytelling helped me understand how challenges I had only considered from my perspective, and that of my community, affected others and how they too sought to address them.

There was a sense of commonality and ally-ship at the conference, and I left feeling as though I could offer my community a fresh perspective.

How would you say the Canadian approach to faith in public life could improve over the next 50 years, in time for Canada's 200th anniversary?

If Canadian society could move from a stance of tolerance (sometimes a little grudging) to one of true pluralism and acceptance, that would be a meaningful improvement for Canada's 200th birthday. Too often, we adopt a stance of tolerance for the 'other' as opposed to true acceptance. In a pluralist and multicultural society such as Canada, we should strive to truly embrace the differences in our communities and utilize them as a vehicle for sharing and growth. While Canada is undoubtedly a world leader in fostering pluralist values, there is still plenty of room for improvement. If we as a community could truly learn to embrace our various parts and their differences, I believe it would make for a far stronger whole and a stronger Canada.

Dear Canada,

We write to you on the eve of the 150th anniversary of Confederation to affirm the role of faith in the formation of Canada in its past, today, and in future generations to come.

We, delegates of the Faith in Canada 150 Millennial Summit, have taken hold of the opportunity that 2017 has provided to reflect on the role that faith communities and individuals of differing faith traditions have had on the formation of our nation.

We, young millennial leaders of faith, have devoted the days preceding this significant anniversary for our country to contend with questions that we feel merit consideration in the formation of the next 150 years of Canadian history:

For many centuries, faith has shaped the human landscape of Canada. It has shaped how we live our lives; how we relate to our neighbours; how we fulfill our social responsibilities; and how we share a common life together as Canadians.

What is the public square and who inhabits it?

Can faith be truly public?

Can a common life be built based on genuine disagreement?

What do religious communities contribute toward the formation of the common good?

How do we demonstrate through action the link between friendship and faith to our non-religious peers?

WE HEREBY AFFIRM:

We take this opportunity today to affirm our hope that Canada's next generation of faithful leaders will move beyond tolerance to cultivate a more vibrant expression of pluralism, founded on the resolution to live peaceably in diversity. Such genuine pluralism

admits both public and private expressions of faith even when our beliefs differ from one another. We affirm that we desire a genuine respect for the inherent dignity of the human person regardless of what faith or non-religious belief they profess. It is our hope that public expressions of faith will contribute to a renewed commitment to cultivating a vibrant, pluralist Canadian society.

Furthermore, we hope that it will encourage a renewed acceptance of the continuing role of faith within Canadian public life.

WE PLEDGE:

1. To celebrate the role of faith in the formation of our rich and diverse culture.
2. To remind Canadians of the contributions religious faith has made to our common life.
3. To tell stories about the role of faith from our past that resonate through our present and toward our future.
4. To encourage and inspire communities of faith to greater participation in and celebration of Canadian life.
5. To help build a network of leaders across private and public, religious and secular institutions who recognize and seek to nurture the place of faith in our life together.

WE WILL AFFIRM AND CHAMPION the role of faith in our common life as Canadians in the spirit of friendship, ensuring that individuals and communities of faith retain an active role in the formation of the spirit and life of this nation.

This open letter was affirmed at the Faith in Canada 150 Millennial Summit at the Ottawa Offices of Cardus, Canada's faith-based think tank, June 30, 2017.



**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel.: 416 585-7000**Ministère des
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et du Logement**

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777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. : 416 585-7000

19-4232

September 24, 2019

RE: Building Code Services Transformation

Dear Head of Council,

I am writing today to announce that my ministry is launching a consultation on potential changes to the delivery of building code services. On September 24, 2019, I released a discussion paper: *Transforming and Modernizing the Delivery of Ontario's Building Code Services*.

Our government has heard from stakeholders about the need for better, modern, and timely services to support the building sector's ability to understand and apply building code requirements. To do this, the ministry is proposing to establish a new administrative authority to deliver a suite of enhanced and new user-driven services. Modernized service delivery will ensure that the sector has the supports it needs to continue growing Ontario's economy, while protecting public health and safety.

Your feedback is important and will help inform enhancements to current building code services and the development of new services, which would:

- strengthen public safety
- streamline customer service and approval processes
- deliver sector-driven services
- provide timely and modern tools and products
- promote consistency across the province
- enhance integrity in the system.

.../2

We will also be hosting regional information sessions that will include an informational session for the sector earlier in the afternoon (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.) and a public open house in the evening (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.). Sessions will be held on the following dates:

1. City of Belleville: Friday, October 4, 2019
Belleville Lions Club, 119 Station St., Belleville
2. City of North Bay: Monday, October 7, 2019
North Bay Memorial Gardens, 100 Chippewa St. W., North Bay
3. Municipality of Chatham-Kent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Chatham-Kent Cultural Centre, 75 William Street, Chatham-Kent
4. City of Vaughan: Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Vellore Hall, 9541 Weston Road, Woodbridge

For more information about this consultation and for additional ways to participate, please visit www.ontario.ca/buildingtransformation where you will find:

- A link to the discussion paper
- Information about how to provide feedback
- A short optional survey

The consultation will close on November 25, 2019.

I look forward to your feedback on the transformation of building code service delivery. Please note that Chief Building Officials will also receive notification of this transformation initiative and associated opportunities for engagement.

If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact ministry staff at buildingtransformation@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c: Municipal Clerks

CITY OF HAMILTON NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Date: September 25, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MERULLA.....

Amendment the Terms of the Reference of the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee

WHEREAS there is a necessity for the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee to meet as soon as possible;

WHEREAS the current membership of the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee as per the Terms of Reference is five (5) Councillors, which requires three (3) members for quorum; and

WHEREAS, there are currently two (2) Councillors appointed to the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee’s membership be reduced to three (3) Councillors.