



**City of Hamilton**  
**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**AGENDA**

**Meeting #:** 26-004  
**Date:** April 10, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** YouTube Channel Streaming for Virtual Meetings

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:  
City's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Jacqueline Durlov, Senior Project Manager, Age Friendly City (905) 546-2424 ext. 1721

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<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	
<b>2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES</b>	
2.1 Land Acknowledgement	
<b>3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>	
(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)	
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7.2 Working Group Updates

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7.2.b Communications Working Group

7.2.c Getting Around Working Group

7.3 Working Committee Updates

7.3.a International Day of Older Persons

7.3.b Seniors Kick-off Event

7.3.c Senior of the Year Awards

7.3.d Ontario Health Coalition

7.3.e Age-Friendly

7.3.f Extreme Heat Committee

7.3.g Elder Abuse Prevention Network

7.3.h Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative

**8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**9. MOTIONS**

9.1 Improved Enforcement of Snow Removal By-law to Assist Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

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**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**



# Hamilton

## **Seniors Advisory Committee**

**March 6, 2026**

**Minutes SAC 26-003**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**WebEx**

### **In Attendance:**

Penelope Petrie (Chair), Aref Alshaikhahmed, David Broom, Carolann Fernandes, Alexander Huang, Kamal Jain, Peter Lesser, Barry Spinner, Marian Toth, and Marjorie Wahlman

### **Also in Attendance:**

Brian Bettencourt, Manager Long Term Care & Seniors  
Jacqueline Durlov, Senior Project Manager Age Friendly City  
Carol Faulkner, Program Secretary

### **Absent with Regrets:**

Councilors Tom Jackson and Esther Pauls – Personal  
Maureen McKeating and Sheryl Boblin

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair P. Petrie called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## **2. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES**

### **(i) Land Acknowledgement**

K. Jain read the Land Acknowledgement.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**(Huang/Wahlman)**

That the March 6, 2026, agenda, be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(Broom/Jain)**

That the Minutes of the February 6, 2026, meeting, be adopted, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. DELEGATIONS**

There were no Delegations.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**7.1(a) Climate Action Update**

Trevor Imhoff, Senior Project Manager, Climate Change Initiatives and Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Climate Change Initiatives addressed Committee respecting the City's Climate Change Action Strategy, with the aid of a presentation.

**(Alshaikhahmed/Wahlman)**

That the presentation from Trevor Imhoff, Senior Project Manager, Climate Change and Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Climate Change Initiatives respecting the Climate Change Action Strategy, be received.

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Working Group Updates**

**7.2(a) Housing Working Group**

M. Toth noted that housing workshops hosted in conjunction with Hamilton Council on Aging will be held at the Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre starting on March 20, 2026..

**7.2(b) Communications Working Group**

A. Huang informed Committee that the Communications Working Group is working on updates for the Red Book and 211, with the aid of a presentation.

### **7.2(c) Getting Around Working Group**

P. Lesser noted that the Getting Around Working Group's activities are closely related to the Age Friendly Plan. As there are only three members, the Working Group is looking for new members.

## **7.3 Working Committee Updates**

### **7.3(a) International Day of Older Persons**

There was no update.

### **7.3(b) Seniors Kick-off Event**

J. Durlov advised that planning has commenced. The Michelangelo Events & Conference Centre has been secured for June 11, 2026. The event will include 70 exhibitors. There are only eight exhibitor tables left. Requests for presentations have been received and development of the presentations is currently in progress. Promotion of the event should be out in April. The volunteer schedule sign up will be available April-May 2026.

### **7.3(c) Senior of the Year Awards**

J. Durlov stated that the Senior of the Year Awards has secured the Michelangelo Events & Conference Centre for October 15, 2026. The call for nominees will be released in April. Some sponsors have been secured and opportunities for more are available.

### **7.3(d) Ontario Health Coalition**

A. Huang stated the Ontario Health Coalition met February 5, 2026, and will have a table at the Senior's Kick-off event.

### **7.3(e) Age-Friendly**

P. Petrie stated the meeting took place on March 4, 2026. The 2027-2031 Age-Friendly Hamilton Plan timeline has been set, and community consultation will begin in April 2026.

### **7.3(f) Extreme Heat Committee**

The Extreme Heat Committee will not be meeting until March or April 2026.

### **7.3(g) Elder Abuse Prevention Network**

A. Alshaikhahmed shared that the Elder Abuse Prevention Network has been working on notes on training initiatives for elder abuse prevention throughout the networks.

### **7.3(h) Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative**

D. Broom indicated that the Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative is working on a SWOT analysis to set a clear path on how they will move forward.

### **(Alshaikhahmed/Wahlman)**

That the following Items for Information be received:

#### **7.2 Working Group Updates**

- 7.2(a) Housing Working Group
- 7.2(b) Communications Working Group
- 7.2(c) Getting Around Working Group

#### **7.3 Working Committee Updates**

- 7.3(a) Internation Day of Older Persons
- 7.3(b) Seniors Kick-off Event
- 7.3(c) Senior of the Year Awards
- 7.3(d) Ontario Health Coalition
- 7.3(e) Age-Friendly
- 7.3(f) Extreme Heat Committee
- 7.3(g) Elder Abuse Prevention Network
- 7.3(h) Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative

**CARRIED**

## **8. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There were no Items for Consideration.

## **9. MOTIONS**

There were no Motions.

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were no Notices of Motion.

**11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of General Information / Other Business.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Seniors Advisory Committee, adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



Submitted on Thu, 02/26/2026 - 11:02

Reference number 98641

Submitted on

## Committee Requested

Committee  
Seniors Advisory Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?  
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?  
No

## Requestor Information

Requestor Information  
James Kemp  
Hamilton, Ontario

Preferred Pronoun  
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request  
To speak to the Motion put forward on Snow Removal, to share experiences of the past season for persons with disabilities and to suggest collaboration and support on issues like snow removal that overlap between committees.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?  
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?  
No





Hamilton

# 2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

April 10, 2026

- Commitment to an accessible election for all City of Hamilton citizens.
  
- Aligns with Hamilton's Age Friendly Plan (2021-2026)

# 2026 Municipal Election

- Ensure electoral services are accessible to all eligible voters and candidates;
- Engage with equity deserving and citizen advisory committees to help identify additional barriers to voting;
- Identify and eliminate barriers; and
- Create a positive and inclusive voting experience for all electors.

# Legislation and Policy

## Municipal Elections Act, 1996 – Sections 44 and 45

- Voting Proxy
- The Clerk is responsible for establishing the number and location of voting places for an election that are considered convenient for the electors.
- Voting Places shall be provided within institutions that align with the requirements of the MEA.

# 2026 Voting Opportunities

- Voting for the municipal election takes place throughout the month of October, with final day of Voting on **Monday, October 26, 2026.**
- **Advanced Polls** (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.):  
October 3 and 4  
October 10 and 11  
October 17 and 18
- **Community Polls** (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.):  
September 26 and 27
- **Ballot on Demand Polls** (Dates and Hours vary):  
McMaster University  
Mohawk College  
Redeemer University
- **City Hall** (October 16 - 23)

# Areas of Focus

- **Election Communication and Information**
- Voting Method
- Voting Locations
- Recruitment, Staffing and Training
- Support for Candidates

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# NEW for 2026

- Exploring option for candidates, and third parties to make on-line Appointment Booking for Nominations.
- Expansion of Ballot on Demand voting locations.
- Increase in number of Community Polls.
- Enhanced mandatory in-person, and on-line training for all Poll Workers.

# Summary

- 2026 Election planning has been built applying 2022 successes and feedback.
- Supports full participation of all City of Hamilton residents in the election process.



Hamilton

THANK YOU



# CITY OF HAMILTON

## MOTION

Seniors Advisory Committee: April 10, 2026

**MOVED BY D. BROOM** .....

**SECONDED BY P. LESSER** .....

### **Improved Enforcement of Snow Removal By-law to Assist Seniors and Persons with Disabilities**

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton's mission is “to provide high quality, cost-conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.” Ensuring safe and accessible sidewalks during winter months aligns with this mission, particularly for seniors and individuals with disabilities;

WHEREAS, research conducted by David Broom (summary attached hereto as Appendix A), the City of Hamilton is home to 104,290 seniors aged 65 and older and approximately 155,850 people aged 15 and over identify as living with disabilities;

WHEREAS, currently, snow removal on City sidewalks is inconsistent. Some areas are well-maintained, while others are neglected, creating significant challenges and safety concerns for seniors and persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton’s Snow Removal By-law 03-296 requires that “every occupant or owner shall, within 24 hours of the cessation of a Winter Storm Event, or within 24 hours of the cessation of a series of Consecutive winter storm events, remove and clear all snow and ice from sidewalks abutting the highways in front of, or along side, or at the rear of any occupied or unoccupied lot, or vacant lot”;

WHEREAS, seniors and persons with disabilities depend on clear pathways for safe mobility, and inconsistent snow removal undermines their safety and independence, which may lead to psychological and physical isolation;

WHEREAS, research conducted by David Broom (attached hereto as Appendix B), indicates that enforcement of the Snow Removal By-law in Hamilton from 2018 through early 2026 is characterized by a consistently high volume of winter complaints;

WHEREAS, expansion of City-led sidewalk clearing during the 2021–2022 winter reduced reliance on private property owners for major routes;

WHEREAS, the 2026 municipal budget has already been adopted, so requesting additional funding for comprehensive sidewalk snow clearing is not feasible;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton by-law enforcement officers rely solely on complaints against properties where snow removal has clearly not occurred to enforce Snow Removal By-law;

WHEREAS, a more proactive approach to enforcement of the Snow Removal By-law would ensure that sidewalks are cleared after major snowfall events, particularly in high-traffic corridors, areas with recurring complaints, and locations serving vulnerable populations that have not been cleared in accordance with the By-law;

WHEREAS, when the Snow Removal By-law is enforced, the responsible property owner or occupant can be fined, a work crew can be dispatched to clear the snow, and all associated costs of snow removal can be applied to the property tax role;

WHEREAS, the City offers a \$450 Snow Clearing Subsidy for low-income seniors and residents with disabilities to hire help with snow removal, but demand after storms makes meeting the 24-hour by-law requirement difficult;

WHEREAS, the City effectively clears roadways, but large mounds of snow are often left at intersections and crosswalks. These accumulations hinder seniors and persons with disabilities, who may have to use the road to find a cleared driveway, increasing their risk; and

WHEREAS, significant gaps exist in year-by-year data on complaints, inspections, fines, and contractor recoveries. Publishing annual summary statistics would improve

transparency, support evidence-based policy decisions, and allow residents and Council to better assess enforcement effectiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Seniors Advisory Committee requests that Council direct staff to conduct a feasibility study for report back to the Planning Committee by July 31, 2026, with recommendations on improving enforcement of the Snow Removal By-law respecting sidewalks, with consideration of the following:

- (a) implementation of a program of active, continuous monitoring and prompt removal of snow at crosswalks and intersections, ensuring safe passage for all residents;
- (b) proactive inspection and assessment of sidewalks by by-law enforcement officers following a major snowfall event, particularly in high traffic corridors, areas with recurring complaints, and locations serving vulnerable populations that have not been cleared in compliance with the Snow Removal By-law, resulting in immediate fines being laid and work crews being dispatched to clear the snow at the owner's expense;
- (c) further expansion of City-led sidewalk clearing, particularly in areas with high pedestrian volumes, seniors, or accessibility needs;
- (d) increased public education efforts through seasonal reminders, clear online guidance, and targeted communications during major snow events;
- (e) implementation of a registry program for participants in the City's Snow Clearing Subsidy Program, accessible to by-law enforcement officers;
- (f) exemption for residents who are eligible for the Snow Clearing Subsidy through extension of the 24-hour compliance period to 72 hours;
- (g) implementation of a centralized tracking system that records enforcement outcomes from complaint to resolution;

- (h) provision of real-time updates on complaint status, enforcement actions taken, or reasons for delays, to enhance transparency and reinforce public confidence in the by-law enforcement process; and
- (i) publication of annual summary statistics to improve transparency, support evidence-based policy decisions, and allow residents and Council to better assess enforcement effectiveness.

## Demographic Profile of Seniors and People with Disabilities in Hamilton

According to the 2021 Census, the City of Hamilton is home to **104,290 seniors aged 65 and older**. This group represents approximately 18.3% of the City's total population. The number of older adults, defined as those aged 55 and over, has surpassed 167,000, highlighting a rapidly growing demographic in the region.

### Key Demographic Data for Hamilton Seniors (65+)

- **Total Seniors (65+):** 104,290
- **Percentage of Population:** 18.3%
- **Older Adults (55+):** Approximately 167,170
- **Future Growth:** The senior population is expected to double over the next two decades.
- **Gender Split:** Women make up a higher percentage of the older population, with this trend being most pronounced among those aged 85 and older.

To address the evolving needs of this demographic, the City of Hamilton has implemented an Age-Friendly Hamilton plan.

### Disability in Hamilton

In 2022, **approximately 155,850 people** aged 15 and over were identified as living with disabilities in the Hamilton area. This represents a significant proportion of the population facing a range of challenges, including developmental, physical, and sensory disabilities. Many of these individuals rely on specialized community support services.

### Key Details Regarding Disability in Hamilton

- **Total Population (15+):** The study covered a total population of 575,750.

## Improved Snow Clearing to Assist Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Motion

- **Percentage with Disabilities:** Approximately 27% of those surveyed in the region identified as having a disability.
- **Context:** These figures are based on Statistics Canada data and refer specifically to residents aged 15 and over.
- **Support Services:** Organizations such as Community Living Hamilton provide support to about 1,400 individuals with developmental disabilities.

*Note: The data provided refers specifically to the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or defined survey area for 2022.*

## Mobility and Disability: Further Insights

Estimates from 2022 suggest there are between **190,150 and 225,450 people aged 15 and over with disabilities** living in Hamilton. While specific data for mobility disabilities within the City is not isolated, it is noted that mobility challenges are among the most common in Ontario—affecting 41.7% of those with disabilities.

- **Total Disability Population (Hamilton):** Statistics Canada data from 2022 indicates that 225,450 people aged 15+ in Hamilton reported having a disability, with another data set citing 190,150.
- **Context on Mobility Disabilities (Ontario):** According to the 2022 survey for Ontario, the most common types of disabilities are pain-related (61.9%), flexibility (42.8%), and mobility (41.7%).
- **Prevalence:** Hamilton is recognized as having a high disability rate, sometimes noted as the highest among the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).
- **Age Factor:** Mobility disabilities are most prevalent among seniors, with 63% of seniors with disabilities reporting mobility challenges.

In summary, a substantial portion of the 190,000+ people with disabilities in Hamilton experience mobility-related issues, underscoring the importance of accessible support and resources for this segment of the population.

# **Snow-Clearing Bylaw Enforcement in Hamilton (2018–2026): Trends, Enforcement Actions, and Key Findings**

## **Overview**

The enforcement of the Snow Removal By-law in Hamilton from 2018 through early 2026 is characterized by a consistently high volume of winter complaints. Each winter season, hundreds to thousands of complaints are received, resulting in orders to comply, fines, and, in some cases, the City hiring contractors to clear properties at the owners' expense. While warnings were issued, enforcement was lacking.

## **Year-by-Year Enforcement Data**

There is very limited and inconsistent information regarding the exact, year-by-year charges laid for failing to clear sidewalks in Hamilton between 2021 and 2026.

Enforcement is primarily reactive and often relies on warnings while very few result in charges. However, specific figures from recent seasons illustrate the scope of municipal action:

**Jan 1 – March 15, 2019:** This was a record snowfall year with 161 cm. The city received 2,786 complaints, issued 1,240 orders to comply, and sent 77 properties to contractors for clearing. Reports indicate that 62 fines were issued to property owners.

**January 2022:** A major storm resulted in 285 complaints and, 14 orders to comply and 2 charged inspection fees. No information on violations recorded.

**2026 Season:** As of early February 2026, more than 280 complaints were received. There is no data for non-compliance or charges.

## **Contractor Clearing and Property Tax Charges**

The exact cumulative number of property owners who had snow-clearing costs added to their property tax bills from 2020 to 2025 is not available.

## Key Findings on Enforcement Practices

**Complaint-Driven:** The city operates a reactive, complaint-based model of enforcement, particularly for residential areas. Municipal law enforcement responds to complaints rather than proactively clearing all sidewalks.

**"Rarely Happens":** Although the bylaw empowers the city to clear snow and charge costs to property tax bills, there is insufficient information compared to the total number of complaints.

**Service Level Enhancement:** During the 2021/2022 winter, the City of Hamilton expanded its sidewalk snow-clearing program, reducing the reliance on private property owners for clearing major routes.

## Conclusion

Although hundreds of complaints are made annually regarding uncleared sidewalks in Hamilton, the city relies on a complaint basis which results in some compliance with little enforcement.