

CITY OF HAMILTON M O T I O N

Board of Health Date: August 12, 2015

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR A. JOHNSON

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

National Pharmacare Strategy

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has recognized and has demonstrated over the past years, its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community;

WHEREAS over 3 million Canadians, including many in our local communities, don't take medicines prescribed by their doctors because they can't afford them;

WHEREAS Canada is currently the only country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program;

WHEREAS the risk of having no insurance for medicines is high among lower income Canadians which includes the service industry, precarious working and seasonal workers, like many in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS studies show that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system would lower costs to businesses by over \$8 billion per year, providing Canadian companies competitive advantages in international trade;

WHEREAS recent research confirms that these gains can be achieved with little or no increase in public investment;

WHEREAS municipal government expenses for employee benefits would be significantly reduced by a national pharmacare program;

WHEREAS a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors;

WHEREAS a National Pharmacare plan is sound policy, both economically and socially; and

WHEREAS, the previous City Council of the City of Hamilton provided unanimous support for a similar motion brought forward on September 24, 2014 by Councillor Merulla for a Universal Drug Program based on a detail description informed by the Canadian Medical Association 2013 Health Care Reform, Change that Works document calling for a "universal access to comprehensive prescription drug coverage" with the matter being brought forward to the appropriate provincial and federal government officials.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council express its continued support for the creation of a National Pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, since health and economic studies now show that such a policy would improve health in municipalities, give local businesses a competitive advantage in the global marketplace and lower costs for municipal government on taxpayers;
- (b) That Hamilton City Council call on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to urge the Province of Ontario to work with other Provinces and the Federal Government to develop and implement a National Pharmacare program;
- (c) That Hamilton City Council and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to adopt a similar resolution respecting the Federal government; and,
- (d) That Hamilton City Council convey their decision on this resolution to the local MPPs, the Ontario Minister of Health, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Health and the Prime Minister.

(To be completed by the Clerk)

MOTION APPROVED ☐ ON A RECORDED VOTE ☐ (Yeas: _____ Nays: _____)
(see Recorded Vote Sheet)

MOTION DEFEATED ☐ ON A RECORDED VOTE ☐ (Yeas: _____ Nays: _____)
(see Recorded Vote Sheet)