



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	October 13, 2015
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Introduction to Hamilton's Children's Charter (CES15051) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not applicable

Information:

The purpose of this report is to provide Emergency & Community Services Committee with an update on work that is underway by the Hamilton Best Start Network to develop Hamilton's Charter of Rights of Children and Youth and Participatory Responsibility, which is being developed by children and for children in our community.

Historical Background:

In 1990, Canada signed the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, which identifies that children have inherent rights. In 2000, community representatives, and City staff, met to discuss policy development for children's issues and the development of a Hamilton-Wentworth Charter of Rights for Children, which would be based on the United Nations document. The Charter of Rights for Children was brought forward and endorsed by the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, Community Services and Public Health Committee in Report SPH00043. A resolution was put forward at that time to present the charter at the June 2000 Convention of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). Appendix A to Report CES15051 includes the original charter that was developed in Hamilton which was used to establish guiding principles for the development and delivery of programs and services for children in our community.

Process:

Hamilton Best Start Network has begun to review and update this fifteen year old Charter by engaging the community in discussions, and in particular to ensure that the

voices of children and youth in our community are captured. The renewed Charter will also inform the development of an updated Early Years Community Plan which is currently underway.

Community consultations and engagement sessions were conducted between January 2015 to August 2015 with children, youth, educators, and facilitators. Approximately 1,500 children and youth under the age of 18 years participated in discussions using art as a medium for conversation. The resulting artwork will be displayed at various community events and locations throughout the remainder of 2015 and 2016 as follows:

Age Group	Planned Exhibits – Fall 2015
Children aged 0-5 years	The artwork developed by these children will be sorted into themes and used to create a children's book which explains the charter.
Children aged 6-12 years	Children in this age group have created paper cranes which will appear hanging from a sculpture created by artist David Hind through a partnership with Culture for the Kids in the Arts.
Youth aged 13-18 years	A large mosaic will be created using the artwork created by youth which will communicate the identified rights. The mosaic is being developed by a young local artist through Art Forms and Centre 3. This mosaic will be part of the travelling exhibits that will be displayed in various locations across the city beginning in November 2015.

These art exhibits, along with a poster of the new Hamilton's Charter of Rights of Children and Youth and Participatory Responsibility, will be toured across the city, beginning on November 2, 2015 on the second floor of Hamilton City Hall. The artwork displays will be shown in various locations throughout the remainder of 2015 and 2016. The charter will also be celebrated at this year's Week of the Child and Youth Luncheon on November 19, 2015.

A report will be brought forward to the Emergency and Community Services Committee in November 2015 which will include the final Charter document for endorsement by City Council.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A to Report CES15051: Hamilton Children's Charter of Rights