



Tuesday May 3rd, 2016

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Members of Hamilton City Council
71 Main St. W
Hamilton ON

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Hamilton City Council,

We are writing today in support of the Mayor's recent initiative to put \$50 million into poverty reduction strategies in Hamilton over the next ten years. We believe this kind of leadership and financial support to tackle poverty and related issues can make a real difference in the lives of many people in our city living in poverty. As such, we strongly urge all members of City Council to vote in favour of this motion.

Hamilton has a long history of collaboration and struggle to address conditions of inequality in our society. Through the work of groups like the Social Planning and Research Council and the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, people across the City have become more aware of the realities and consequences of poverty. As the Mayor's motion reminds us, too many people in Hamilton cannot find affordable housing, do not make decent wages, live with food insecurity, and face financial barriers to education and job training. At McMaster, the Community Poverty Initiative has worked to raise awareness and attention to these issues among faculty, students, staff and administration in the belief that our institution has a role to play in advocating for structural change.

Building on years of community development work and the cooperation of networks, to carry the City's poverty reduction strategies forward with new funding is a bold and important step. We strongly support Mayor Eisenberger's efforts and hope to continue participating as partners in developing priorities that are effective and, most importantly, create social justice in our city. We hope all members of City Council will join in these efforts by supporting this motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Baker Collins".

Dr. Stephanie Baker Collins, Co-Chair
Carol Wood, Co-Chair
On behalf of the McMaster Community Poverty Initiative