

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee

DATE: _____, 2016

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WHITEHEAD.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Ontario Autism Program Changes

WHEREAS, Our vision to make Hamilton the best place to raise a child includes ensuring that every child in Hamilton has equal opportunity to grow and develop to meet his or her full potential.

WHEREAS, The Liberal government has introduced a new Ontario Autism Program which will now only provide limited access to Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) for Ontario children with autism aged five or older who no longer qualify for government-funded intensive therapy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) That staff identify existing opportunities in recreation programs, individual support resources including access to the innovative sensory room space in order to better serve autistic children and respite service for parents
- b) That Children's and Home Management Services Division identify support options for school age children through children's services as an alternative for families affected by the recent changes to the Ontario Autism Program.
- c) That staff be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on how Community & Emergency Services Department programs and services are meeting the needs of this demographic.
- d) That staff be directed to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee regarding the financial impact on the City to fill the void, brought on by the Province's abandonment of parents and children affected by Autism, to provide programs and resources to these families.
- e) That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario, to advocate for additional funding for programs and resources for individuals of all ages with Autism and their families.