

Speech for Hamilton Council

Thank you for this time.

I would like to talk about an important issue, the bathroom issue. In the early to mid-1900's, African Americans were told to go to a different bathroom, because they were different. Now, in 2016, the Transgender people are getting the same treatment and are being told to use a bathroom they do not choose. Now is the time to put a stop to this.

I would like to see a gender neutral bathroom at the MacNab transit terminal - one where it just says "bathroom", and not male or female. Here is a picture of what the sign could look like:



I just would like to say that this is a very important issue because a lot of trans people don't "pass" – meaning, they do not appear to others as the gender they identify with.

I would like to tell you about my story. When I was 19 years old, I did not look like a woman. It took 16 years for me to become the woman I am today. And if anybody saw me on the street, they would not look twice. But for many trans people, they look again and again. It makes the transgender people very nervous.

If you have any questions, talk about it to me. I am willing to sit down with you, and talk to you so you can pay attention to this issue with knowledge and understanding. It's time for us not to be scared of change.

I would like to thank you for the time I had to speak out. If you need to contact me, here is my email: kristeensprague89@gmail.com or you can call me: 905-921-4752.