



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 14, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Basic Income Hamilton Committee Update (BOH16058/CES16060) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Claire Lechner (905) 546-2424, Ext. 4181
SUBMITTED BY and SIGNATURES:	Ellen Pezzetta Director, Healthy Living Division Public Health Services Department Suzanne Brown Director, Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Community & Emergency Services Department Dr. Julie Emili Associate Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services Department

Council Direction:

The Board of Health at its meeting on March 21, 2016 BOH16003 Item (e) (i) approved the following:

- (a) "That the appropriate staff from Public Health Services and Community and Emergency Services be directed to meet with member(s) of the Hamilton Basic Income Guarantee Committee to investigate the feasibility of developing a plan of facilitation for collaborative Basic Income advocacy."

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

This report fulfills that request and the item can be removed from the outstanding business list.

Information:

Background

This motion was carried in response to the delegation by Ms. Elizabeth McGuire representing the Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits regarding the challenges of Ontario's social assistance programs, the need for reform and potential benefits of basic income as an alternative policy action.

Outcomes and Action

One staff representative from Public Health Services and one from Community and Emergency Services attended the May 4, June 6 and August 10, 2016 meetings of the Hamilton Basic Income Guarantee group (now known as Hamilton Basic Income). This grassroots group, initiated in late 2015, is developing as a local network of the Basic Income Canada Network (see: <http://www.basicincomecanada.org/ontario>).

The main advocacy goal of the Hamilton group is to raise awareness of basic income and promote discussion among Hamiltonians. Basic Income Hamilton is planning to host a series of four to five community information events in 2017. Staff from both departments made a commitment to attend meetings of Hamilton Basic Income to provide support and collaboration on activities where it aligns with our work. Staff supported and attended the first public education event that was held the evening of Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at City Hall with over 60 people in attendance and a mailing list of interested people was gathered.

Hamilton Basic Income does not currently have terms of reference or established administrative processes, including documentation of meeting agendas and minutes. Hamilton Basic Income is interested in seeking funding and is exploring possible sources of funding for community events, including the Hamilton Community Foundation and the City of Hamilton Community Enrichment Fund. To date, the chair has met with the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction and the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton to solicit support.

One member, with the knowledge of the chair but not the whole membership, attended General Issues Committee on September 21, 2016 to request Council representation for Hamilton Basic Income. Councillor Green agreed to act as liaison. The chair who has been leading the group, tendered her resignation October 7, 2016 as she is moving out of province. The need to recruit a new chair has been identified and will be discussed at the November meeting which is currently being scheduled.

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Staff will attend the November meeting and remain committed to the plan to support this group and assist with any future meetings or events.