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November 24, 2017

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
2nd Floor – 71 Main St. W.
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

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Dear Mr. Mayor:

Re: Letter of November 20, 2017 – Equity for Transgender and Gender Diverse People in the Healthcare System

Thank you for your November 20, 2017 letter to the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) regarding equity for transgender and gender-diverse people in our health care system. We appreciate the opportunity to be included in the discussion.

As I know you are aware and understand, the HNHB LHIN is but one player in our broad health care system. While the LHIN does plan for, and have accountability for, a variety of health care programs and services, there are numerous partners who come together to create our health care system and address issues as they are identified. As a LHIN we must always plan with an eye on the needs of our entire LHIN and the needs in the City of Hamilton are important to our LHIN-wide planning. In some cases Hamilton's needs are quite unique and together we've set the stage for innovative thinking and have developed local solutions which then roll out across the LHIN and in some cases, the province – the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Teams with the Hamilton Police is an excellent example of this.

The HNHB LHIN is in the midst of developing its 2018-19 Annual Business Plan (ABP) which outlines the goals and activities for the upcoming year. The ABP supports the organization's three-year Integrated Health Services Plan as well as the specific priorities assigned to LHINs through the Minister's Mandate letter. Our Vice-President, Health System Strategy and Integration is leading the ABP development with her team. Equity is a priority within our ABP and while a broad term, I do believe we have an opportunity to reflect the needs of the trans and gender-diverse population across our LHIN.

Mayor Fred Eisenberger

Your letter references three evidence-based themes for providing services to transgender people (Wylie et al, 2016). We will be using those and others as we collaborate with others in our community including primary care, hospitals and community support services to address the need for local support and services for the trans and gender-diverse population in Hamilton and across the HNHB LHIN.

In the coming months, working with others, we will review the services currently available as well as the opportunities for improvement and change and I look forward to sharing with you our approach and plans. Thank you again for bringing this need to the forefront and providing us with the opportunity to be part of the solution-finding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Donna Cripps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cripps".

Donna Cripps
Chief Executive Officer

c: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton
Rob MacIsaac, President and CEO, Hamilton Health Sciences
Cole Gately, Chair, Hamilton Trans Health Coalition
Tim McClermont, Executive Director, The AIDS Network
Rosalind Tarrant, Vice President, Health System Strategy & Integration, HNHB LHIN