



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Healthy and Safe Communities Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 15, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Changes to Social Assistance (HSC18042) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Bonnie Elder (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2182
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manager Health and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

Not Applicable

Information:

On July 31, 2018, the Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services announced changes to the Province's Social Assistance programs.

Included was the cancellation of the previously announced increase of 3% to the Ontario Works rates that was planned for October 2018. Instead, an increase of 1.5% will be applied to the current rates effective October 1, 2018.

As well, the Basic Income Pilot will be discontinued. The pilot was to include 4,000 participants: 2,000 from the Hamilton, Brantford and Thunder Bay area and the remainder from Lindsay. It is estimated that 177 participants from Hamilton left the Ontario Works program to be part of the pilot.

The Ministry has indicated that details regarding the wind-down of the Basic Income research project will be shared in the coming weeks. They have committed that participants will be given advance notice and steps will be put in place to transition any former social assistance recipients, who continue to be eligible, back to Ontario Works in a thoughtful and seamless manner.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

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.

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In addition, the provincial government indicated that the ongoing work on social assistance modernization would continue and will be developing a new plan with a 100-day timeline with more details in the coming weeks.

Staff will be closely monitoring the timing of any changes and any impacts on the program. A plan will be developed to ensure that anyone who participated in the Basic Income Pilot who may require City services in the future will be properly supported.

Appendices and Schedules Attached

None