



## Added Item 5.2

### Hamilton Community Legal Clinic Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton

100 Main Street East, Suite 203  
Hamilton ON L8N 3W4  
Phone: (905) 527-4572 Fax: (905) 523-7282  
[www.hamiltonjustice.ca](http://www.hamiltonjustice.ca)

100, rue Main est. Suite 203  
Hamilton (Ontario) L8N 3W4  
Téléphone : (905) 527-4572 Télécopieur : (905) 523-7282  
[www.hamiltonjustice.ca](http://www.hamiltonjustice.ca)

March 20, 2019

ATT: Alicia Davenport, City of Hamilton  
RE: TENANT DEFENSE FUND

A proposal to the Emergency and Community Services Committee is being put forward to establish a "Tenant Defense Fund" that would help tenant committees with \$1000 for the cost of a legal representative at the Landlord Tenant Board (LTB) to respond to Above Guideline [Rent] Increase applications and group applications.

Community development workers, lawyers, paralegals and social workers at the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic are first hand witnesses as to the effects of the rental climate in Hamilton: Displacement due to above guideline rent increases, as well as "renovictions", and disrepair in rental units. Many Landlords have been resorting to any tactics available to displace low-income tenants in order to take advantage of the opportunities to charge higher rents.

Many tenants, especially those in larger rental buildings who organize as a group (tenant committees) face, among others, financial barriers. They cannot match the legal resources of their landlords, who are often huge financial corporations.

The City of Hamilton can help level the playing field somewhat by establishing a fund for Tenants' Associations. Rather than being seen to prefer tenants over landlords, the City will demonstrate its commitment to making sure that both sides are adequately heard at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic continues to support tenants as best it can in housing-related legal matters, focusing on low income people. We welcome the proposal that would add much-needed assistance in what can be complicated legal matters.

We wholeheartedly support this proposal as it will support tenants in their plea for justice and fairness

Yours Truly,

Maria Antelo  
Community Development Coordinator



Hamilton Community Legal Clinic  
Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton

Ph: (905) 527-4572 x23  
Fax: (905) 523-7282  
[m\\_antelo@lao.on.ca](mailto:m_antelo@lao.on.ca)  
[www.hamiltonjustice.ca](http://www.hamiltonjustice.ca)