



Dear 2018 City Council Candidate,

Hamilton is home to a large and diverse 2SLGBTQ+ community which continues to grow. Following the 2014 closure of The Well, Hamilton's sole 2SLGBTQ+ community organization, our community has been in crisis. Despite this crisis being thoroughly researched and well-documented, there has been no proactive response from the City of Hamilton.

Since 2014, the few strides taken to support our community have been reactive in nature. In 2016, the Trans Protocol was passed as mandated by an Ontario Human Rights Commission settlement. After a hateful disruption at Hamilton Pride 2018, the City approved the installation of pride flag crosswalks at two separate locations. Council approved a budget of \$25,000 for this project, which is more than has been allocated to support our community over the past two years **combined**.

Symbolic gestures can be heartening but fail to address the continuing inequalities faced by the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Crosswalks do little to reduce barriers to health care, housing, education, employment, and other necessities of life.

As a group of young, 2SLGBTQ+ Hamiltonians, we ask for your proactive leadership once elected to council. We propose the following actions.

1. Increase accessibility and engagement of City of Hamilton LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

Our city needs more representative 2SLGBTQ+ voices, and better community engagement. We propose:

- a. A clear, open, advertised community call-out for new representatives on the city's LGBTQ+ advisory committee in this upcoming term
- b. Add two youth (under 29) representative seats on the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
- c. Engage community organizations and leaders as ex-officio members of the LGBTQ+ Advisory

2. Creation and enactment of Inclusion Policies

- a. Introduce policy ensuring inclusive use of city space, including but not limited to city and city-owned event space and advertising space.
- b. Full enactment of the 2016 City of Hamilton Trans Protocol

3. *Funding opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations*

Currently, the City Enrichment Fund will only fund groups for up to 30% of a proposed project. This is a significant barrier to building capacity in serving and supporting 2SLGBTQ+ focused organizations in this time of crisis.

- a. we ask that for this upcoming term, the 30% limit be raised for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations *applying for the city enrichment fund to jumpstart capacity within our Hamilton community.*
 - i. If this is not possible under the city's current granting framework, we ask that *council create a small funding pool for 2SLGBTQ+ organizations that may include core funding.*

I, _____, City Council Candidate for Ward ____, support Hamilton's 2SLGBTQ+ communities and commit to exploring the suggestions outlined above.

Hamilton's 2SLGBTQ+ youth appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Speqtrum Hamilton Civic Action Team