



City of Hamilton  
Emergency and Community Services Committee  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

*Re: Submission being made by the Hamilton Collaborative Partnership Group*

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council,

The Hamilton Accessible Sports Council (HASC) is a nonprofit organization that supports organizations that facilitate an inclusive sport environment for all participants and is dedicated to the promotion of accessible sport for all in the Hamilton community. We service individuals and organization in the Hamilton and surrounding areas.

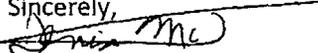
While there are many programs and services that offer accessible sports in the Hamilton area, many are using facilities that are not truly accessible. Children and adults are struggling to "fit" into facilities that are antiquated or retrofitted and not purpose built to meet their or their program's needs. And there are currently no facilities for elite level athletes with a disability to train, therefore all of these athletes are having to travel outside of the Hamilton area at great personal cost to themselves to train or giving up their sports due to the inability to travel.

As you know sport is a breeding ground for growth and development for all, however this is even more important for those individuals with a disability as there are not as many opportunities for them to learn these skills or "grow". Sport offers an opportunity to learn new physical skills, knowledge base or to improve existing skills. It offers a positive impact on endurance, coordination and range of motion, social skill development, for example; turn taking skills, positive attitudes, ability to model appropriate behavior(s), confidence levels and feelings of self-worth. These are skills and attributes that will carry over into everyday lives and benefit them long into the future. Sport will allow society to "grow" better, well rounded members with or without a disability. Members that see the person as an individual not their disability.

Having a facility that is fully accessible will go a long way to support ongoing sport and people development, we strongly encourage you to consider any and all possible options

Hamilton Accessible Sports Council is pleased to support the initiative put forth from the Hamilton Collaborative Partnership Group towards a joint application with the City of Hamilton targeting funding for a multi-sport and recreation center facility in the City of Hamilton. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (905) 521-2100 ext. 74482.

Sincerely,

  
Denise McArthur,

Chair Hamilton Accessible Sports Council