



Hamilton

CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Fire Department

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 7, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Red Cross Agreement (HSC19046) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Connie Verhaeghe (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6038
SUBMITTED BY:	Dave Cunliffe, Chief Hamilton Fire Department Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Fire Chief, or his designate be authorized to enter into a three-year agreement on behalf of the City of Hamilton with the Canadian Red Cross to provide the delivery of emergency social services in the event of a large scale emergency, at a per capita cost of \$0.12 per person (approximately \$66,000), charged to the Hamilton Fire Department budget and funded proportionately from all operating departments and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Large-scale city emergencies can impact residents resulting in the need for evacuation centres within the city. Emergency social services support is provided to evacuees by the City of Hamilton with support from the Canadian Red Cross.

In the event of an emergency involving 25 residents or less, the Canadian Red Cross will respond and provide the coordination and delivery of emergency social services including emergency shelter for 72 hours.

In an event involving more than 25 residents, a comprehensive strategy is required to meet the emergency social service needs of evacuees. This type of incident requires additional resources and services beyond those available within the City. The Canadian Red Cross is well equipped to provide additional resources and

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services which include emergency shelter, feeding, registration and personal services support.

The Canadian Red Cross has existing agreements and is entering into new agreements with many surrounding municipalities to provide emergency social services which offer guaranteed support over municipalities that have not signed an agreement. Since Hamilton currently does not have a formalized agreement with the Canadian Red Cross, the City risks the availability of priority response support during a large-scale emergency.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The annual fee to the Canadian Red Cross is based on a per capita cost of \$0.12 per person which equates to approximately \$66,000 for the City (based on 2019 population data). The initial agreement is for a three-year term with provisions to extend for two additional three-year terms and will be charged to Hamilton Fire Department budget and be funded proportionately from all operating departments.

As is usual practice, there may be additional costs associated with the lodging, feeding, travel and transportation services of the Red Cross Volunteers and other ancillary associated costs following an emergency response. These will be negotiated based on specific needs during an event and cannot be determined in advance.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Since 2004, the City of Hamilton has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Red Cross to provide emergency response services in support of emergency social services. The Canadian Red Cross has now requested municipalities to enter into a fee for service agreement to render these services during an emergency. Municipalities such as Toronto, Niagara, York Region and Peel Region have signed Red Cross agreements. Some agreements were signed in 2017, other agreements were signed recently in 2019.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The City of Hamilton as a municipality is delegated under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Action, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9* and as stated in 2.1 (1) Every municipality shall develop and implement an emergency management program that includes response to emergencies.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation with other municipalities (Peel Region, City of Toronto, Waterloo Region, Halton Region and York Region) and the Director of Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development recommend the City of Hamilton enter into an agreement with the Canadian Red Cross to provide emergency social services.

Feedback from the Financial Planning and Policy and Legal Services Divisions of the Corporate Services Department were incorporated in this Report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

A formalized agreement with the Canadian Red Cross will provide assurance of access to resources needed to respond to the social services needs of evacuees. The services include basic needs such as: food, clothing, shelter, evacuation centre/registration and inquiry, as well as family reunification and personal services support. The Canadian Red Cross specializes in these services and are considered the lead organization in responding to the needs of evacuees.

Since Hamilton has not entered into a formalized agreement with the Canadian Red Cross, the City risks not having support from the Canadian Red Cross during a large-scale emergency. The Red Cross responds to municipalities that have existing agreements before supporting municipalities with no agreements.

The assurance provided through a formal agreement with the Canadian Red Cross includes a commitment to train and recruit local volunteers. This will provide the City with access to local volunteers who are familiar with resources with the City. This also means a greater coordination of emergency social services during an emergency.

The Canadian Red Cross is a key external partner with other non-governmental agencies who play significant roles in assisting evacuees during an emergency. Their experience and expertise in responding to emergencies will support the City in responding to emergencies and will increase the City's resiliency in response to large-scale emergencies.

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ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED:

None