

Good morning Mr. Eisenberger and Team,

I want to start by saying THANK YOU! Thank you for your steadfastness, kindness and positive leadership through these difficult and uncertain times, it has been a comfort to know that you are working so hard for the people of Hamilton.

That said, I do have a wee complaint to bring up about the Pandemic Pay, I can only imagine how many of these you are filtering through, so I will try and make this brief and please note that I do know this is a Provincial decision, but your office is certainly a few degrees closer to Mr. Ford than I, so I am starting here.

I am a proud essential healthcare worker and what I have witnessed over the last couple of months from the staff in the hospital where I work has been nothing short of amazing! In this very difficult and exhausting time I have watched a large group bond together and certainly become the Heart of Hamilton!

Unfortunately, in the last couple of weeks, as quickly as the staff came together over the Pandemic, the Pandemic Pay is pulling them apart.

I'm not sure if the list is finalized, but if I can campaign for an addition it would have to be the Materials Management/Logistics Department, this department is integral to the organization and, like the others, has gone above and beyond their call of duty.

Amongst many other assignments, this department is receiving ALL deliveries to the hospital, including the increased flow of PPE; logging, storing and distributing all of the purchased and donated PPE; delivering to, tracking and stocking all areas of the hospital, including the COVID units and Emergency Room, with the supplies necessary for day-to-day patient care; as one of the region's main COVID-19 testing sites, we have staff dedicated to supplying and supporting the Virology lab 24/7.

As mentioned, this is not a complete list of tasks, but I feel that you get the picture and can easily see that this group is essential and deserves to be on the Pandemic Pay list.

Here I have certainly advocated for one department, but I fully believe that all staff coming through the doors of hospitals and long-term care facilities, leaving behind their own worries and stresses to provide the care and services that this community needs, deserve to be on the list.

I truly appreciate the time you have taken to read this (and hopefully respond) and I thank you for all of the hard work that you and your team are doing.

Be safe,
Sarah Pietarinen