



## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	February 4, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Menstrual Products Pilot (HSC20001(a)) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Marion Trent-Kratz (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7036 Colin McMullan (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3538
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Grace Mater Director Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### COUNCIL DIRECTION

On February 26, 2020, Council approved a 12-month Menstrual Products Pilot Project utilizing the following approaches:

- (i) Universal Approach – making menstrual products available in women’s and universal washrooms in 5 recreation centres, one in each recreation district; and,
- (ii) Targeted Approach – partnering with Hamilton Food Share and local food banks to distribute menstrual products through Food Share’s existing network.

### INFORMATION

#### Status Update

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent staff redeployment, implementation of the Menstrual Products Pilot will commence during the first quarter of 2021.
- Staff consulted with the Recreation Division and Hamilton Food Share for the pilot to ensure the healthy and safe distribution of menstrual products and potential workarounds for future COVID-19 delays.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

## Background

- On May 22, 2019, Council directed staff to explore the feasibility of a 12-month pilot project that would provide menstrual products (pads and tampons to those with financial need.
- On February 26, 2020, Council voted to fund the Menstrual Products Pilot (Report HSC20001) with net levy funding being redirected from the Ontario Works Special Supports Benefits.
- The funding breakdowns for the two pilot approaches, access to product and rationale are:

Approaches	Product Access	Rationale	Funding
Universal	Menstrual products available in women's and universal washrooms in five recreation centres, one in each recreation district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Universal access, products are available to anyone in need</li><li>▪ Self-serve model does not require contact with anyone</li><li>▪ Recreation centres are accessible and close to main transit routes</li><li>▪ Products available in most areas of the city</li><li>▪ Low start-up costs</li></ul>	\$30,000

Targeted	Hamilton Food Share and local food banks to distribute menstrual products through Food Share's existing network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Leverages Food Share's buying power</li><li>▪ Leverages existing foodbank partnerships and distribution networks</li><li>▪ No associated start-up costs</li><li>▪ Concentration of foodbanks in areas of high need (the central part of the city) as well as locations in Ancaster, Dundas, east Hamilton and on the mountain</li><li>▪ Most foodbank locations are accessible and close to main transit routes</li><li>▪ Food Share and foodbank partners utilize a system for tracking usage, monitoring costs, and reporting</li></ul>	\$91,000
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The Recreation centres, one in each recreation district, to distribute menstrual products are as follows:

Recreation Centre	Address	Number of Female/ Universal Washrooms
Dalewood	1150 Main St. West	3
Dominic Agostino Riverdale	150 Violet Drive	4
Huntington Park	87 Brentwood Drive	3
Norman Pinky Lewis	192 Wentworth St. North	3
Westmount	35 Lynbrook Drive	4

The pilot will provide Hamilton residents opportunities to experience full health potential without disadvantage due to social determinants of health based on these goals:

- supporting individuals who menstruate and are experiencing financial need;
- upholding personal dignity; and,
- providing choice.

#### Next Steps

- Staff will issue pilot funding allocations for the universal and targeted approaches and pilot implementation will commence in the first quarter of 2021.
- Evaluation of pilot cost, product distribution and impacts will be completed. Staff will report back to Council during the first quarter of 2022.

- Whenever necessary the pilot will be adjusted to adhere to provincial and/or local COVID-19 restrictions

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None