

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## NOTICE OF MOTION

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY DATE: April 16, 2021

**MOVED BY A. MARCO .....**

### **Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges**

WHEREAS on February 26, the Council of Ontario Universities reported that Ontario's universities have lost more than \$1 billion due to Covid-19 related costs and declining revenues;

WHEREAS, the Council of Ontario Universities has requested emergency stabilization funds of \$500 million to support universities and colleges through the pandemic, but the province has offered only \$100 million;

WHEREAS, one of Ontario's universities – Laurentian University – has already been placed into creditor protection at the cost of millions of public dollars for legal charges and fees, and at the cost of millions of dollars in lost research funding, as well as job losses in the hundreds, and damage to the reputation and future of the university; And whereas Ontario's universities and colleges are critical to Ontario and to 26 cities and regions, contributing more than \$120 billion to Ontario's economy;

WHEREAS, Ontario's universities and colleges employ more than 118,000 workers, and graduate more than 180,000 students annually with advanced skills and qualifications required for a growing economy;

WHEREAS a strong, vibrant, and inclusive post-secondary system is critical to any post-pandemic recovery;

WHEREAS Ontario students need programs that contribute to building and sustaining healthy communities;

WHEREAS a just transition to a post-COVID world will require retraining for unemployed Canadians, especially in sectors that will not return to pre-COVID levels of employment, and whereas universities and colleges are essential for major new initiatives to spark a transition to a clean energy economy;

WHEREAS citizens in Hamilton would be amongst the main beneficiaries of new public funding for McMaster University and Mohawk College; and

WHEREAS local student, labour, and equity organizations are supporting the calls for new provincial funding and the creation of a new federal Post-Secondary Act that restores public funding and eliminates tuition fees for all students in post-secondary education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That, in the spirit of social and economic fairness, and in recognition of government's basic role to provide the infrastructure and education necessary to meet tomorrow's challenges, the City of Hamilton hereby petitions Queens Park to provide \$400 million in emergency stabilization funds for post-secondary education institutions in Ontario; and

That, in the spirit of federal cooperation, the City of Hamilton hereby petition the federal and provincial governments to pass a Post-secondary Education act that ensures 80 percent of all funding of post-secondary education be provided by public funds and that tuition fees be eliminated for students in all provinces.