



Hamilton

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY  
REPORT 21-002**

**Friday, April 16, 2021**

**1:30 a.m.**

**Due to the COVID-19 and the closure of City Hall, this meeting was held virtually**

**Present:** Mayor F. Eisenberger – City Business  
Councillors J. P. Danko and N. Nann  
R. McKerlie, President of Mohawk College (Chair)  
M. Afinec, President & COO of Business Operations, Hamilton Tiger-Cats & Forge FC  
R. Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village  
K. Duffin, President and CEO, Amity Goodwill  
P. Hall, Executive Director, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce  
K. Jarvi, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA  
T. Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders' Association (Vice-Chair)  
L. La Rocca, Director of Operations, Sonic Unyon Records  
K. Loomis, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce  
B. Lubbers, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott  
A. Marco, President, Hamilton & District Labour Council  
R. McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks  
M. Patricelli, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce  
B. Kelly, Synapse Life Science Consortium, McMaster Innovation Park  
D. Spoelstra, Chair of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee  
H. Wegiel, Director of Government and Trade Relations ArcelorMittal Dofasco  
G. Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office

**Absent with**

**Regrets:** Councillor T. Whitehead – Leave of Absence  
F. Bernstein, Executive Director, Workers Art & Heritage Centre  
E. Dunham, Owner, The Other Bird  
M. Ellerker, Business Manager, Hamilton-Brantford Building & Construction Trades Council (Building/Skilled Trades Sector)  
B. Munroe, Blacktop Recess  
Khadija Hamidu, Executive Director Workforce Planning Hamilton  
C. Puckering, President and CEO, Hamilton International Airport

**THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT 21-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges (Added Item 8.1)**

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:**

- (a) 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
- (b) 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.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Clerk advised the Task Force that there were no changes to the agenda.

**9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

The agenda for the April 16, 2021 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, was approved, as amended.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

Councillor J. P. Danko declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as his spouse works for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

R. McKerlie declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as he works for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

K. Loomis declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as his spouse works for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

R. McCann declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as consults for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

B. Kelly declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as he works for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

G. Yuyitung declared an interest in Item 9.1, Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges, as she works for a Post-Secondary Education Institution.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)**

**(i) February 12, 2021 (Item 3.1)**

The Minutes of the February 12, 2021 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, were approved, as presented.

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 4)**

**(i) Correspondence from Michael Collins-Williams, West End Home Builders' Association, respecting Impacts on the Residential Construction Industry (Item 4.1)**

The Correspondence from Michael Collins-Williams, West End Home Builders' Association, respecting Impacts on the Residential Construction Industry, was received.

**(e) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)**

**(i) COVID-19 Business Impact Survey (Item 6.1)**

Norm Schleeahn, Director, Economic Development, addressed the Task Force with an Update respecting the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been included in the official record.

The Presentation respecting the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey, was received.

**(ii) Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Recommendations  
Report Update (Item 6.2)**

Carrie Brooks-Joiner, Director, Tourism and Culture and Norm Schleeahn, Director, Economic Development, addressed the Task Force with the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Recommendations Report Update with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation has been included in the official record.

The Presentation respecting Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Recommendations Report Update, was received.

**(f) DISCUSSION ITEM (Item 7)**

**(i) Next Steps for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery (Item 7.1)**

Janette Smith, City Manager, addressed the Task Force on Next Steps for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

The information respecting Next Steps for the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, was received.

**(g) NOTICE OF MOTION (Item 9)**

A. Marco moved the following motion:

**(i) Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges (Added Item 9.1)**

The Rules of Order were waived to allow for the introduction of a Motion respecting Support for Emergency Funds for Post-Secondary Education Institutions and Stable Public Funding for Ontario's Universities and Colleges.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to item 1.

**(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)**

There being no further business, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery be adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron McKerlie, Chair  
Mayor's Task Force on Economic  
Recovery

Loren Kolar  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk