



Office of the City Clerk

May 11, 2021

Via email: clerk@hamilton.ca

City of Hamilton

Dear Sir/Madam:

**Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, May 4, 2021 – New Motion Number 1 –
Post-Secondary Education**

At the regular meeting on May 4, 2021, Council approved New Motion Number 1 with respect to Post-Secondary Education as follows:

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; and

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; and

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; and

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; and

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

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

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; and

Whereas citizens in Kingston would be amongst the main beneficiaries of new public funding for Queen's University and St. Lawrence College; and

Whereas many local organizations, such as the Kingston and District Labour Council, 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 the Kingston City Council, 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, hereby petitions Queens Park to provide \$400 million in emergency stabilization funds for post-secondary education institutions in Ontario; and

That Kingston City Council, in the spirit of federal cooperation, 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 the province.

Yours sincerely,



John Bolognone
City Clerk
/nb

C.C. Councillor Jim Neill