




CITY OF HAMILTON
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Government and Community Relations

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 9, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities 2021 (CM21010) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Morgan Stahl (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4524
SUBMITTED BY:	Morgan Stahl Director, Government and Community Relations City Manager's Office
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

(a) That Council approve the set of Hamilton priorities, as outlined in report (CM21010), in advance of the pending Federal election and that Council direct staff to provide relevant supplementary materials to Council that will support election related meetings with candidates and campaign teams.

The proposed priorities are as follows:

1. **Supportive Housing & Tackling Poverty** – addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations by through supports for homelessness and an affordable housing strategy
2. **Impacts of Climate Change** – disaster mitigation and adaption support for areas either impacted or at risk of being impacted by the effects of Climate Change
3. **Strong Economic Recovery** – investment in critical infrastructure to support economic development and continued support for workers and businesses recovering from COVID-19

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.

4. **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – support for marginalized communities that have been impacted by hate related incidents, namely, the Black, Jewish, 2S-LGBTQIA+, and Indigenous communities

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial/Staffing/Legal: None.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are indications of an approaching Federal Election. As a result, staff have prepared a list of election priorities that support Council's term of Council priorities and the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force. The recommended priorities are also consistent with priorities outlined by the Big City Mayor's Caucus (out of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities).

Presently, FCM has not publicly outlined their 2021 federal election priorities.

Standard practice has been for Council to develop priorities in advance of provincial or federal elections to ensure that local candidates and relevant party policy teams understand Hamilton's priorities., The priorities also provide important information for the new incoming (or re-elected) party to develop their mandate and funding decisions based on election commitments that have happened during consultation at the local level.

In the past, prior to a Federal election being called, staff prepared election priority list documents in advance of candidate meetings in order to ensure that candidates and prospective members of a new government understand what the City's priorities are and why those priorities have been selected. This is consistent with previous council motions, such as Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities (CM19007) (City Wide) which was brought to Council September 11, 2019 ahead of the October 2019 Federal Election.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

None.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

In order to prepare this report, staff consulted with the Senior Leadership Team. Previous council reports such as Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities (CM19007), Term of Council Priorities and other forms of Council direction were also used as a guide.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given that COVID-19 and the on-going health crisis occurred shortly after this minority government was sworn in, many of the 2019 priorities remain relevant, as the economy has not yet made a full recovery. The City's priorities shifted quickly as the health crisis became the most important priority. As such, staff used previous Council adopted priorities (CM19007) and (CM19004) as foundational documents in order to adapt priorities for the upcoming election.

Following Council's approval of a priority list, staff will develop communications materials that will serve as support for the City in the lead up to candidate meetings. It will be supplemented by a summary document and more comprehensive materials will also be developed to inform the varying policy teams for each party.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Our People and Performance

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.