



## **EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT 21-012**

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Council Chambers

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

**Present:** Mayor F. Eisenberger  
Councillors N. Nann (Chair), B. Clark, T. Jackson, S. Merulla, and  
E. Pauls

**Regrets:** Councillor B. Clark – City Business  
Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal

### **THE EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 21-012 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct  
Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government (Item 11.1)**

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021 the Government of Canada's budget announcement included a \$30 billion investment over five years to create a national system of Early Learning and Child Care and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care;

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada has entered into Child Care Agreements with seven provinces and one territory to improve the quantity and quality of regulated child care while reducing the costs for parents to an average of \$10 per day;

WHEREAS, the provinces and territory that signed agreements with the federal government are collectively committing to expanding capacity of new regulated child care spaces by 125,000;

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario on a bilateral child care program remains outstanding with public reports stating negotiations are ongoing;

WHEREAS, Ontario is home to 38% of Canada's children under the age of 6;

WHEREAS, like other cities in Ontario, families in Hamilton struggle with accessing child care and managing the high fees required to maintain care once secured;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has particularly amplified the precarious position that women, primarily the caregivers of children, are placed in when forced to choose between participating in the workforce and caring for their children or their extended family's children;

WHEREAS, twice as many women as men vacated the paid labour force by September 2021 compared to February 2020;

WHEREAS, the adoption of a National Child Care strategy would provide the resources required to ensure all families have access to the child care supports that meet their needs while providing all members of our community the opportunity to fully participate in the work force;

WHEREAS, the National Child Care strategy aligns with Hamilton's Economic Recovery Task Force recommendation to ensuring a direct connection is made to the health and well-being of the community and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the National Child Care strategy aligns with Hamilton's Early Years Community Plan and the commitment to providing responsive, high quality, accessible early years programming that achieves equitable outcomes for all children and families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- (a) That staff from the Healthy and Safe Communities Department investigate the potential for entering into a direct municipal agreement with the Federal Government that would allow the City of Hamilton to participate in the National Childcare Strategy and report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee as soon as possible; **and**
- (b) ***That City Council strongly supports the Federal Government's National Childcare Strategy and demands that the Province of Ontario formalize an affordable, equitable, quality childcare agreement with the Federal Government as soon as possible.***

**FOR INFORMATION:**

(a) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.1. Rachele Sender, Shelter Health Network, respecting opposing the dismantling of encampments in Hamilton

Recommendation: To be received.

- 5.2. Keanin Loomis, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, respecting Item 11.1, National Childcare Strategy – investigating the potential for direct municipal agreement with the Federal Government

Recommendation: To be received and referred to Item 11.1.

- 5.3. Bill Johnston, respecting Report 2021/2022 Winter Service Planning (HSC21048), Item 10.4 on the Nov. 18, 2021 agenda

Recommendation: To be received and referred to Item 10.4.

## **6. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

- 6.4. Darryl Hall, Umbrella Child and Family Centres of Hamilton, respecting National Childcare Strategy (for today's meeting)
- 6.5. Marni Flaherty, Today's Child, respecting municipal agreement with the federal government to move the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan forward (for today's meeting)
- 6.6. Denise Davy, respecting Winter Service Planning (for today's meeting)

## **7. CONSENT ITEMS**

- 7.1. Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes - October 1, 2021

## **10. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 10.5. Seniors Advisory Committee - Citizen Committee Report, respecting Proposed resolution regarding Hamilton Police Service Board and Hamilton Police Services failure to provide adequate and effective police services in long-term care homes in the City of Hamilton

Due to the anticipated loss of quorum at 1:50 p.m., the approval of Delegation Requests Items 6.1 to 6.6 and Item 11.1, National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government are to be dealt with immediately following Item 3, Declarations of Interest.

The agenda for the November 18, 2021 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting was approved, as amended.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

The following Delegation Requests, were approved for today's meeting:

- (i) Denise Christopherson, YWCA Hamilton, regarding Child Care Motion (for today's meeting) (Item 6.1)
- (ii) Jake Szamosi, regarding encampments and the city's homelessness response (Item 6.2)
- (iii) Dr. Rachel Lamont, regarding enforcement of encampment evictions without adequate supports in place, and the deleterious health effects of such actions (Item 6.3)
- (iv) Darryl Hall, Umbrella Child and Family Centres of Hamilton, respecting National Childcare Strategy (Added Item 6.4)
- (v) Marni Flaherty, Today's Child, respecting municipal agreement with the federal government to move the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan forward (Added Item 6.5)
- (vi) Denise Davy, respecting Winter Service Planning (Added Item 6.6)

Delegations 9.1 - 9.6, were moved up on the agenda, in anticipation of the loss of quorum.

**(d) PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS (Item 9)**

- (i) Denise Christopherson, YWCA Hamilton, regarding Child Care Motion (Added Item 9.1)**

Denise Christopherson, YWCA Hamilton, addressed the Committee respecting Item 11.1, National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government.

- (ii) Jake Szamosi, regarding encampments and the city's homelessness response (Added Item 9.2)**

Jake Szamosi, addressed the Committee respecting encampments and the city's homelessness response.

- (iii) Dr. Rachel Lamont, regarding enforcement of encampment evictions without adequate supports in place, and the deleterious health effects of such actions (Added Item 9.3)**

Dr. Rachel Lamont, addressed the Committee respecting enforcement of encampment evictions without adequate supports in place, and the deleterious health effects of such actions.

**(iv) Darryl Hall, Umbrella Child and Family Centres of Hamilton, respecting National Childcare Strategy (Added Item 9.4)**

Darryl Hall, Umbrella Child and Family Centres of Hamilton, addressed the Committee respecting National Childcare Strategy with the aid of a presentation.

Quorum was lost at 2:00 p.m., the Chair with the Committee's consent heard the remaining Delegations.

**(v) Marni Flaherty, Today's Child, respecting municipal agreement with the federal government to move the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan forward (Added Item 9.5)**

Marni Flaherty, Today's Child, addressed the Committee respecting municipal agreement with the federal government to move the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan forward.

Quorum was achieved at 2:05 p.m.

**(vi) Denise Davy, respecting Winter Service Planning (Added Item 9.6)**

Denise Davy addressed the Committee, respecting Winter Service Planning.

The following Delegations, were received:

- (i) Denise Christopherson, YWCA Hamilton, regarding Child Care Motion - received and referred to Item 11.1 (Added Item 9.1)
- (ii) Jake Szamosi, regarding encampments and the city's homelessness response – received (Added Item 9.2)
- (iii) Dr. Rachel Lamont, regarding enforcement of encampment evictions without adequate supports in place, and the deleterious health effects of such actions – received (Added Item 9.3)
- (iv) Darryl Hall, Umbrella Child and Family Centres of Hamilton, respecting National Childcare Strategy - received and referred to Item 11.1 (Added Item 6.4)
- (v) Marni Flaherty, Today's Child, respecting municipal agreement with the federal government to move the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan forward - received and referred to Item 11.1 (Added Item 6.5)
- (vi) Denise Davy, respecting Winter Service Planning - received and referred to Item 10.4 (Added Item 6.6)

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1 and (e).

**(e) MOTIONS (Item 11)**

**(i) National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government (Item 11.1)**

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021 the Government of Canada's budget announcement included a \$30 billion investment over five years to create a national system of Early Learning and Child Care and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (1);

WHEREAS, the Government of Canada has entered into Child Care Agreements with seven provinces and one territory to improve the quantity and quality of regulated child care while reducing the costs for parents to an average of \$10 per day;

WHEREAS, the provinces and territory that signed agreements with the federal government are collectively committing to expanding capacity of new regulated child care spaces by 125,000 (2);

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario on a bilateral child care program remains outstanding with public reports stating negotiations are ongoing;

WHEREAS, Ontario is home to 38% of Canada's children under the age of 6 (3);

WHEREAS, like other cities in Ontario, families in Hamilton struggle with accessing child care and managing the high fees required to maintain care once secured;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has particularly amplified the precarious position that women, primarily the caregivers of children, are placed in when forced to choose between participating in the workforce and caring for their children or their extended family's children;

WHEREAS, twice as many women as men vacated the paid labour force by September 2021 compared to February 2020 (4);

WHEREAS, the adoption of a National Child Care strategy would provide the resources required to ensure all families have access to the child care supports that meet their needs while providing all members of our community the opportunity to fully participate in the work force;

WHEREAS, the National Child Care strategy aligns with Hamilton's Economic Recovery Task Force recommendation to ensuring a direct connection is made to the health and well-being of the community and the economy (5); and

WHEREAS, the National Child Care strategy aligns with Hamilton's Early Years Community Plan and the commitment to providing responsive, high quality, accessible early years programming that achieves equitable outcomes for all children and families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That staff from the Healthy and Safe Communities Department investigate the potential for entering into a direct municipal agreement with the Federal Government that would allow the City of Hamilton to participate in the National Childcare Strategy and report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee as soon as possible.

The motion respecting National Childcare Strategy – Investigating the Potential for Direct Municipal Agreement with the Federal Government, **was amended** by adding the new subsection (b), to read as follows:

**(b) That City Council strongly supports the Federal Government's National Childcare Strategy and demands that the Province of Ontario formalize an affordable, equitable, quality childcare agreement with the Federal Government as soon as possible.**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

That, in anticipation of the loss of quorum, the following items, were deferred to the December 9, 2021 meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee:

**(i) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

(1) November 4, 2021

**(ii) COMMUNICATION ITEMS (Item 5)**

(1) Rachelle Sender, Shelter Health Network, respecting opposing the dismantling of encampments in Hamilton (Added Item 5.1)

Recommendation: To be received.

(2) Keanin Loomis, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, respecting Item 11.1, National Childcare Strategy – investigating the potential for direct municipal agreement with the Federal Government (Added Item 5.2)

Recommendation: To be received and referred to Item 11.1.

(3) Bill Johnston, respecting Report 2021/2022 Winter Service Planning (HSC21048), Item 10.4 on the Nov. 18, 2021 agenda (Added Item 5.3)

Recommendation: To be received and referred to Item 10.4.

**(iii) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 7)**

- (1) Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes – October 1, 2021 (Added Item 7.1)

**(iv) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**

- (1) Stryker Power Load Conveyance Equipment Standardization (HSC21038) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)
- (2) ZOLL Defibrillators Standardization for the Hamilton Fire Department and Hamilton Paramedic Service (HSC21039) (City Wide) (Item 10.2)
- (3) Snow Angels Program Update (HSC21046) (City Wide) (Item 10.3)
- (4) 2021/2022 Winter Service Planning (HSC21048) (City Wide) (Item 10.4)
- (5) Seniors Advisory Committee - Citizen Committee Report, respecting Proposed resolution regarding Hamilton Police Service Board and Hamilton Police Services failure to provide adequate and effective police services in long-term care homes in the City of Hamilton (Added Item 6.5)

**(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

There being no further business, the Emergency and Community Services Committee was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Nann  
Chair, Emergency and Community Services  
Committee

Tamara Bates  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk