



**CITY OF HAMILTON
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
Government & Community Relations**

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 6, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Our Priorities, Our Plan: Building a Brighter Future for Hamilton (CM22006) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Morgan Stahl (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2178
SUBMITTED BY:	Morgan Stahl Director, Government Relations & Community Engagement City Manager's Office
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the proposed City of Hamilton priorities, as outlined below, be approved in advance of the June 2, 2022 provincial election:
- (i) Supportive Housing;
 - (ii) Strong Economic Recovery and Prosperity post-COVID-19;
 - (iii) Investing in Child Care and Early Years;
 - (iv) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; and,
 - (v) Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; and,
- (b) That staff be directed to provide relevant supplementary materials to the Mayor and Council that will support election related advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Ontario general election will be held on or before June 2, 2022. On October 5, 2020, in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Members of Provincial Parliament voted unanimously in favour of a motion stating that the government would not call an election prior to the fixed election date in 2022. As a result, staff have prepared a list of election

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.

priorities that support this term of Council's priorities and the Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force. The recommended priorities are also consistent with key priorities outlined by the Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Staff have consulted with other municipalities to ensure alignment on shared advocacy positions and where appropriate, to work together in advocating for common goals and objectives that can be mutually beneficial.

Standard practice has been for Council to develop a set of priorities in advance of provincial or federal elections to ensure that local candidates, relevant policy and platform teams and party leaders understand Hamilton's unique needs and high-level priorities.

The priorities also provide important information for the new incoming (or re-elected) government to develop their mandate and funding decisions based on election commitments during local consultation. Prior to past provincial and federal elections being called, City staff have prepared election priority list documents to ensure that candidates and prospective local members of a new government understand what the City's priorities are and the supporting rationale.

As reference, this approach is consistent with past Council motions and reports, including Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities (CM19007) (City Wide) brought forward to Council on September 11, 2019 ahead of the October 2019 Federal Election, as well as Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities 2021 (CM21010) (City Wide).

The provincial priorities strategy outlined in the analysis section sets out a five-point list. It also requests that political parties and local candidates commit to fulfilling all five commitments to share the City's vision for a brighter, bolder and more prosperous future for all Hamiltonians.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

In order to prepare this report, staff consulted internally with the Cities Senior Leadership, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus. Previous council reports such as Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities (CM19007 and CM19006(g)), Term of Council Priorities and other forms of Council direction were also used to inform this report.

The City of Hamilton priorities are in alignment with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2022 Provincial Election Strategy: Advancing Ontario's Prosperity

(referenced in Appendix A) and the Ontario Big City Mayor's priorities outlined in the letter to the leader (attached in Appendix B).

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic response and health crisis remain our greatest priority locally and that the economy has not yet made a full recovery, the provincial priorities are closely tied to ensuring a strong recovery and shared prosperity as we emerge from COVID-19.

The City's government relations priorities shifted quickly from 2020 onwards as the health crisis and intergovernmental relations between the municipality, province and the federal government became more integral than ever. As such, staff used previous Council adopted priorities (CM19007) and (CM19004) as foundational documents to adapt priorities for the upcoming provincial election.

More information regarding the proposed priorities has been identified here:

1. Supportive housing and ensuring our most vulnerable have access to health and human services

Addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations by providing significant and sustainable supports for individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Sustainable provincial funding for health and social service supports required to house chronically homeless individuals with complex co-occurring health needs
- Encourage provincial and federal governments to work together across health and human services with municipalities towards an integrated *whole of government* approach
- Ensuring there is a single, coordinated strategy that will provide funding both for critical support services (health, mental health, social services) and infrastructure (capital, building, costs of physical units)

2. Strong economic recovery and prosperity post-COVID-19

Investment in critical social and physical infrastructure to support economic development and continued support for workers, businesses and the healthcare system recovering from COVID-19.

As we look to a post-COVID-19 recovery plan, we have identified the need for enhanced support over a minimum of one to two years, to transition from COVID-19 emergency supports to a more responsive, resilient sustainable system that includes:

- Continued support for small businesses, non-profit organizations and charities that have provided services to Hamiltonians and navigated the effects of significant closures
- Investments in healthcare to address emergency health services modernization and issues such as lengthy ambulance off-load delays, healthy equity, access to care and the need for innovative models that improve care
- Permanent and predictable funding opportunities that give municipalities flexibility to offer enhanced services such as the Social Services Relief Fund

New and existing funding tools must be:

- Long-term and predictable - so we can plan ahead, reduce duplication or waste
- Flexible - so local expertise can identify what solutions come first
- Efficient and accountable - less bureaucracy, more focus on outcomes

3. Investing in Child Care and Early Years

Ontario remains the only province in the country without a National Child Care agreement. Like many other cities in Ontario, families in Hamilton struggle with accessing child care and managing the high fees required to maintain care. Adopting a National Child Care Plan will provide families in Hamilton with access to affordable child care and support increased labour market participation, especially for women and people of colour.

- Encourage Ontario to reach an agreement with the federal government on a National Child Care Plan deal, which is essential to Hamilton's economic recovery
- The child care and early years sector continues to experience recruitment and retention challenges. A high-quality child care and early years system requires a comprehensive human resources workforce strategy, including fair compensation for early childhood educators
- Adopting a National Child Care Plan will provide families in Hamilton with access to affordable child care and support increased labour market participation, especially for women and equity seeking communities.

4. Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change adaptation, as the level of government with the most direct contact with residents. Municipalities play a role in setting policy for approvals, but are limited in scope and authority, and need the support of higher levels of government to set policy direction and funding that will ensure climate change adaptation actions are undertaken.

- Committed partnership, financial support and acknowledgment between municipal and provincial government to address climate change and propose innovative, locally focused solutions
- Ensuring that environmental legislation and Environmental Compliance Approvals provide flexibility for municipalities to gradually improve environmental performance over time without creating barriers to development
- Investing in green jobs and infrastructure

5. Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion has been identified as a key priority for the City of Hamilton, through the term of Council priorities. The City is committed to creating and nurturing a city that is welcoming and inclusive to ensure that equity-seeking communities feel safe, supported and have an enhanced sense of belonging through strengthening community capacity and inclusive engagement opportunities.

- Meaningful, ongoing support for marginalized communities that have been impacted by hate and racism and playing an active role in helping to amplify the voices of those from equity-seeking communities
- Supporting funding for technology education programs for all ages will bolster digital literacy, training, promote digital equity and ensure municipal digital infrastructure projects are eligible for infrastructure funding
- Providing a rural lens to major policy and funding decisions is imperative at all levels of government. When we prioritize investment in our rural areas, we invest in our people

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

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 residents to be involved in their community.

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy and have a high quality of life.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report CM22006 – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)’s 2022 Provincial Election Strategy

Appendix “B” to Report CM22006 – Ontario Big City Mayor’s Priorities, Letter to the Leader