

CITY OF HAMILTON M O T I O N

Emergency and Community Services: September 22, 2022

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Support for the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) to Receive Increased and Sustainable Provincial Funding

WHEREAS, since 1975, the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton and Area) (SACHA) has provided advocacy and direct support for survivors of recent or historical sexual violence;

WHEREAS, the number of survivors needing access to crisis counselling and long-term counselling programs continues to increase year upon year;

WHEREAS, SACHA has provided abuse prevention education available for all residents in the City of Hamilton including school boards, universities, public institutions, not-for profit organizations, unions, and community groups, with increasing demands for workshops;

WHEREAS, ongoing underfunding of SACHA has reduced the number of resources available to provide these services due to highly specialized skill requirements that are unmatched by low wages and inadequate benefits relative to other mental health funded positions;

WHEREAS the current COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a drastic increase in the number of people in the community requiring the services of SACHA; and

WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (June 22, 2022), the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge (Dec 22, 2021; motion 21-GC-317), and the City of Kingston (August 9, 2022) have all passed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fulfill the 30% increase commitment announced in 2018 that has not been budgeted to date;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Mayor, on behalf of Council, advocate to the provincial government to increase the base funding for the Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton Area) (SACHA) by 30% to address current needs and plan for increases to enable sustainability, by writing a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, with copies to Members of Provincial Parliament representing Hamilton ridings and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.