

Pilon, Janet

Subject: HRTO releases first HRTO releases first COVID-19 decision interpreting the City of Toronto mask by-law

From: Lauren Stephen

Sent: April 2, 2021 12:53 AM

To: Barnett, Kelly <Kelly.Barnett@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: HRTO releases first HRTO releases first COVID-19 decision interpreting the City of Toronto mask by-law

This one is interesting.

<https://www.hrlsc.on.ca/en/human-rights-stories/whats-new-human-rights/hrto-releases-first-covid-19-decision-interpreting-city>

Although there are no doubt missing details, the way this is written it seems like HRTO accepted without any proof that the complainant has a disability. That is a contrast with BC.

Even though the disability itself seems pretty bogus, and perhaps the story writer is trying to give that impression. But the HRTO ruling seems to be, if someone says they have a disability, they have one.

My opinion is that disability is the best, and perhaps only, valid mask exemption. Facial deformity or severe skin irritation. Deafness or similar communication issue. Limited range of motion or muscular disability that makes it physically difficult to take a mask off. Mental illness such as claustrophobia or PTSD. Mental disability such as autism or dementia. "I can't breath with a mask on and it is so severe it is a disability"--yes, the HRTO has ruled on this. Any health condition that is so severe it prevents wearing a mask is a disability. Limit it to disability. No questions asked. No proof required. But disability only.