



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Audit, Finance and Administration Committee
From:	Hamilton Women and Gender Equity Committee <div style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black; width: 200px; margin: 0 auto;">Deanna Allain, Chair</div>
Date:	January 26, 2023
Re:	Applying a gender lens to the City of Hamilton for the Operational Budget

Recommendation

- (a) That the City of Hamilton consider applying a gender lens to the City of Hamilton for the 2023 Operational Budget, with implementation in the 2024 Operational Budget;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton continue to promote gender equity in society through the operational budget, in support of the City of Hamilton's 2016-2025 Strategic Plan, including economic prosperity and growth, healthy and safe communities, clean and green, built environment and infrastructure, and culture and diversity; and
- (c) Consider gender and diversity in taxation and resource allocation decisions.

Background

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 promotes gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Whereas the Government of Canada's ambitions to achieve this goal include:

- Eliminating gender-based violence and harassment;
- Supporting gender equality in leadership roles and at all levels of decision-making; and
- Ensuring that Canadians, and those who live here, share responsibilities within household and families. (<https://sdgcif-data-canada-oddcic-donnee.github.io/5/>)

In 2018, the Government of Canada enacted the Canadian Gender Budgeting Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-17.2/FullText.html>). The federal government is using Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) to analyse and support the development of inclusive policies, programs, and initiatives (<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-analysis-plus.html>).

Gender-based initiatives can include early learning and childcare programs (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/gender-equality.html>). It includes supports for women, trans, and gender-non-binary entrepreneurs and skilled trades people (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/gender-equality.html>). It also includes addressing gender-based violence by ensuring anyone has access to protection and services (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/gender-equality.html>). Gender-based initiatives support the calls for justice of the Missing and murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' and the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>; https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf; <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/gender-equality.html>). Finally, gender-based budgeting tackles issues of affordable housing and access to sexual and reproductive health care (<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/agenda-2030/gender-equality.html>).

Analysis/Rationale

Using a gender-based lens to the operational budget, supports increased gender equity for women, girls, trans and gender non-binary folks. Cis and trans women and non-binary folks, especially when combined with the intersectionality of race, sexuality, and lower socio-economic status, are disproportionately affected by violence and harassment. This group was significantly financially impacted by job loss and unemployment during the pandemic and by ongoing systemic barriers. Recognizing the impact of the budget has on cis and trans women and gender non-binary folks in the City of Hamilton is necessary by Council to ensure it fulfils its vision “to be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.”

References

Canadian Gender Budgeting Act (S.C. 2018, c. 27, s. 314). <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-17.2/FullText.html>

<https://sdgcif-data-canada-oddcic-donnee.github.io/5/>

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-analysis-plus.html>

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>; https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

