

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Board of Health

From: Nolan, Tim

Sent: February 15, 2023 10:25 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Nolan, Tim

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Hello

If the message below can be distributed to all members of City Council for their February 22, 2023 Council meeting it would be appreciated.

Please advise of any questions or other instructions in order to communicate directly with Council.

With appreciation,

Tim Nolan

Accessibility Hamilton Alliance

accessibilityhamilton@gmail.com

February 15, 2023

To Mayor and Members of Council,

Re: Hamilton Board of Health

My name is Tim Nolan and I write on behalf of the Accessibility Hamilton Alliance (AHA) and its supporters. The AHA promotes full accessibility for seniors, persons with disabilities and taxpayers in the City of Hamilton and beyond.

AHA supports the position to put a pause on the conversion of the Hamilton Board of Health into a framework proposed by Councillor Kroetsch simply because it should look like that of Ottawa or Toronto.

Accessibility over the past few years has been subsumed under the Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) framework. Yet the proposed Health Board conversion does little more for disability or accessibility than to permit the submission of a question for consideration of a Board selection panel. While other EDI classifications have been included in the current proposed framework by Councillor Kroetsch disability and seniors are noticeably absent.

Persons with disabilities and seniors rely upon the health care industry in many ways and for many reasons, not solely because of disability. As such, persons with disabilities and seniors are heavily vested in the health care industry. For this reason, and more, seniors and persons with disabilities must be represented at both the selection panel and at the Board of Health itself.

There is no question that, in the past, groups represented under the EDI framework have not been well represented at the community level, though that is changing. However, as EDI matters progress in their importance and representation disability is beginning to lag behind. Therefore, the Accessibility Hamilton Alliance is asking that:

Should Council move to have staff report on this subject, that persons with disabilities and seniors be fully consulted by staff on both the Board composition and selection process and that the staff report adequately reflect that consultation;
OR,

Should Council decide to proceed with the motion of Councillor Kroetsch that this motion be amended to include persons with disabilities and seniors on both the selection panel and the Board of Health itself.

I would be more than pleased to respond to any questions or concerns you may have with this request.

Kind regards,

Tim Nolan
Accessibility Hamilton Alliance
accessibilityhamilton@gmail.com