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Advocating for responsible vaccine rollouts

February 15th, 2023

Dear Mayor Horwath, Chair, and all members of City Council of Hamilton, Ontario:

I recently had the privilege of delegating at a Hamilton Board of Health Committee meeting regarding the city's opioid crisis, and in particular whether the declaration of an "emergency" would be warranted.

Drug addiction is a multi-faceted problem, with many "tributaries" flowing into this raging river.

One of the tributaries is unemployment, which leads to social isolation, which in turn leads to drug addiction.

One of the current drivers of unemployment for many Hamiltonians, are Covid vaccine requirements as a condition for employment, a requirement that this Council is currently authorizing, and which has spread into the broader business community.

I tried to raise this important issue at the recent Board of Health meeting, but the connection to the Agenda item (the opioid crisis) was somewhat remote or tangential. This letter, in part, hopes to bridge that gap.

But this letter hopes to do more than just that.

As I mentioned to the Board of Health, in my role as "Twitter advocate" for responsible vaccine rollouts/policies in Ontario and Canada, I hear from a tremendous number of individuals across Canada on how vaccine mandates are destroying their lives.

Many senior Public Health advisors will tell you (most likely *in camera*): vaccine mandates are not warranted, given what we now know about Covid. Air filters, yes. Sick days off, yes. Mandates? No. Don't believe me? Visit the National Advisory Committee on Immunization website. Their view is clear: the vaccine should be *offered*, not ordered

Hamilton is currently relying on a Covid policy from August 2021. This, in my respectful view, is reckless and disingenuous. It ignores almost 2 years of evolving science relating to vaccines and Covid. In the meantime, it keeps hundreds of Hamiltonians unemployed, isolated, and despondent. It fuels social problems that the City now has to rush to fix.

On February 1st, 2023, Members of Council had the opportunity to rescind its 2021 Covid policy. I implore this Council today, to rescind its mandatory vaccination policy.

This request is not unreasonable, it costs the city nothing, and is in line with the Covid policies of other major Canadian cities.

This request is in line with my recommendations, delegations, and/or liaising to the following entities (which led to policy changes shortly after my outreach):

1. Toronto Board of Health / City of Toronto (which led to TTC and City of Windsor rescinding their Covid vaccine mandates);
2. Western University Board of Governors;
3. Town of Orangeville;
4. City of Richmond Hill (effective March 1, 2023)

Vaccine mandates are creating devastating social problems that cannot be justified given the current science. Urgent action is required.

I implore you all - or any one of you - to make a motion today: to rescind all Covid vaccine mandates for City of Hamilton employees.

You have many authorities upon whom to rely, including the City of Toronto, the City of Richmond Hill, the Town of Orangeville, and of course, the entire advisory board of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization: the vaccine should be *offered*, not ordered.

Thank you so much for considering these views and for taking action.



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