




**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**  
**Government Relations and Community Engagement**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	March 22, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	City of Hamilton Endorsement of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Pre-Budget 2023 Priorities (CM23013) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
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<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Morgan Stahl Director, Government Relations and Community Engagement
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- a) That the City of Hamilton support and endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Pre-Budget 2023 Priorities titled “A better life for all Canadians” outlined in “Appendix A” ahead of the 2023 Federal Budget.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The goal of a government relations strategy for the City of Hamilton is to establish a strong, open, pro-active, and transparent relationship between the City and its provincial, federal, municipal and advocacy partners. In addition to ongoing opportunities and challenges that require intergovernmental cooperation and participation, the pandemic has highlighted the increasing need to ensure that different orders of government have mutual understanding, clear communication, and alignment wherever possible on shared challenges.

In the past, Council has developed a set of priorities in advance of provincial or federal elections to ensure that local candidates, relevant policy and platform teams and party leaders understand Hamilton’s unique needs and high-level priorities. During the development of those set priorities, staff consult with other municipalities regarding best

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

practises in addition to reviewing and analysing priorities of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

In early March 2023, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities publicly made known their pre-budget priorities for the 2023 Federal Budget. Staff are recommending Council endorse these priorities, outlined in Appendix A, as they are in alignment with the Cities current federal advocacy priorities, ahead of the Federal Budget. Endorsing these priorities can signal to our federal counterparts that we are supportive of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and help amplify current calls on the Federal Government to increase funding and investment for municipalities across the country.

### **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: N/A

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Prior to past provincial and federal elections being called, staff have prepared election priority list documents to ensure that candidates and prospective local members of a new government understand what the City's priorities are and the supporting rationale. In 2021, the following priorities were recommended by staff and supported by Council, which developed our Federal advocacy strategy:

- **Supportive Housing and Tackling Poverty** – addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations through providing supports for homelessness as well as an affordable housing strategy
- **Impacts of Climate Change** – disaster mitigation and adaption support for all areas at risk of being impacted by the effects of climate change
- **Strong Economic Recovery** – investment in critical infrastructure to support economic development and continued support for workers and businesses recovering from the effects of COVID-19.
- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – support for marginalized communities that have been impacted by hate-related incidents, namely, the Black, Muslim, Jewish, Asian, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigenous communities.
- **Championing Rural Communities** – committing to universal internet access and applying a rural lens to policy and funding decisions.

As reference, this approach is consistent with past Council motions and reports, including Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities (CM19007) (City Wide) brought forward to Council on September 11, 2019 ahead of the October 2019 Federal Election, as well as Hamilton's Federal Election Priorities 2021 (CM21010) (City Wide).

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2023 Federal Budget priorities are as follows:

- **Climate** resilience and adaptation
- Affordability, including a focus on **housing** development
- Core **infrastructure**, including water and wastewater treatment, culture and recreation, broadband, and transit
- Community **wellbeing**, particularly mental health and addiction issues

Staff are recommending the City of Hamilton endorse these priorities due to past support for these issues from Council and the community, as well as continued need for funding and investment.

For example:

- Each of these priorities can be found in the Cities 2016 – 2025 strategic plan and in our federal advocacy priorities (which were created ahead of the last federal election in 2021 and referenced above within this report).
- Needed enhancements in these areas have already been identified and work is currently underway across departments:
  - Implementation of ReCharge Hamilton: Our Community Energy + Emissions Plan, and Hamilton's Climate Change Impact Adaptation Plan;
  - Development of the Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap, and the presentation from Professors Dunn and Pomeroy at Council in early March
  - Develop of core asset management plans, Council's direction to accelerate the construction of bike lanes, water and wastewater infrastructure inspections and improvements, etc.
  - The development of the Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan, as well as work with the Hamilton Community Benefits Network.
  - Ongoing interaction with the Federal Government (inclusive of local Member's of Parliament) regarding the Cities set federal advocacy positions

By endorsing these priorities, City Council can make its voice heard that additional funding is needed to address climate resiliency, the housing crisis, ageing infrastructure, and continued human and health issues that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is also important to note, that this does not preclude Council from determining new priorities and advocating for a different set of issues/opportunities should our local priorities shift or change in the future.

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Community Engagement and Participation**

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community

### **Economic Prosperity and Growth**

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

### **Healthy and Safe Communities**

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

### **Clean and Green**

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

### **Built Environment and Infrastructure**

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

### **Culture and Diversity**

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” – FCM’s Pre-Budget 2023 Priorities, A better life for all Canadians