

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health
(i)(a)

February 3 2023

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for Councillor Kroetsch's motion regarding Restructuring the Board of Health. Please note that my letter today represents only my own views, and not those of any organizations I work for.

I provided a pre-recorded video delegation to the Board of Health on March 22, 2021 (Item 6.4) regarding the need for restructuring of the Board of Health. This letter is to reiterate what I shared there, and to ask City Council to support this crucial transformation of Board of Health governance to better support the health of all Hamiltonians.

I have been privileged to be part of the Board of Directors for the Parkdale Community Health Centre in Toronto, and to currently sit on the core organizing team for the Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team and as a member of the Greater Hamilton Health Network's Health Equity Council. In all 3 of these settings, I've seen how expertise in health equity alongside community representation changes the priorities and decisions at the leadership level and translates to better outcomes for people and communities. It directs resources towards tailored community public health interventions with better uptake from the communities' they are meant to serve, shares power with those most affected by an issue to create more effective solutions, and offers a more transparent and accountable governance structure.

Hamilton Public Health is charged with leading the response to some of the most challenging and important health issues in our city – the year-over-year increase in deaths from the toxic drug supply, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics, healthy childhood development, environmental health, and so much more. For these responses to meet the needs of all Hamiltonians, the Board of Health must have leadership from not only city councillors, but also experts in health equity, and representation from structurally vulnerable communities. I hope that city councillors realize this is an opportunity to create that legacy – of better, more equitable health outcomes - for generations of Hamiltonians to come; and vote in support of Councillor Kroetsch's motion.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,



Claire Bodkin MD CCFP
Ward 4 Resident, Hamilton

5 February 2023

ATTN: HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

RE: MOTION TO AMEND HAMILTON'S BOARD OF HEALTH – LETTER OF SUPPORT

I offer my staunch support for Councillor Kroetsch's motion to restructure Hamilton's Board of Health to include 6 members of Council, 6 members of community health professionals, and 1 education representative. As Dr. Ameil Joseph, Lyndon George, and Dr Madeleine Verhovsek called for in their open letter dated February 25, 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the profound racial health inequities that exist in Canada and this must be addressed through structural changes in leadership and governance.

As a family physician and racialized woman myself, I know far too well the obvious racial disparities in health outcomes for racialized patients, of the anxiety my family members and racialized patients face when entering the health care environment, and mistrust of a system designed by and for white Canadians. As a researcher, my work focuses on racial differentials in attainment, and the appropriate collection and interpretation of race-based data. We know that health care is far from race-neutral. Rather, our political and health structures have been, and continue to be, shaped by our Colonial history.

Addressing structural inequities necessitates structural changes. Hamilton's Board of Health cannot continue to be compromised solely of elected members of council. Health outcomes are the result of complex interactions between our physiology, health system, politics, and socioeconomic statuses. Navigating such complexities should be done with the valuable input of local health experts. Representation matters, and racialization impacts the political attainment and representation of people from racialized and other equity seeking-communities in elected positions. I hope that my City Council would extend their equity-lens in understanding the importance of representation - as improving access to health care and increasing trust in such a system cannot be done without being informed by the lived experiences of our community members.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anjali Menezes

MBBS, MClined, CCFP
Family Physician, McMaster Family Practice
Family Medicine Postgraduate Anti-Racism Advisor, McMaster University
Lead, DARE Group

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health
(i)(c)

February 5, 2023

To Hamilton City Council,

re: Motion to Restructure Hamilton Board of Health

My name is Dr. Kassia Johnson and I was part of the original group that delegated to City Council in 2021 with a team of concerned citizens and healthcare supporters/providers. At that time, our team discussed that the Hamilton Board of Health needed to better represent the community it was serving such that the issues of racism, sexism, discrimination, inadequate housing, poor working conditions and a lack of protections could be discussed and understood differently. Scientific evidence shows that all of these issues impact health in our community but also that diverse thinking in decision making bodies also leads to better decisions being made. This systemic change will not only lead to better decisions but also better Public Health governance.

The motion that will be put forward by Councillor Kroetsch at February 8, 2023 city council meeting, provides a real opportunity to create a decision making framework from an EDI-lens with accessibility and inclusion principles embedded in the process.

Please receive this letter as a document in support of the motion that will be appearing as 7.1 on the City Council Meeting agenda for February 8, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kassia Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kassia Johnson, MD, FRCPC (she/her/elle)
Assistant Clinical Professor, McMaster University
Developmental Pediatrics, Ron Joyce Children's Health Centre
Director of Anti-Racism and Inclusion, Dept. of Peds, McMaster University
Senior Medical Director Equity, Diversity, Inclusion – Hamilton Health Sciences
Co-Physician Lead Canadian Paediatric Society Antiracism Initiative



February 6, 2023

FACULTY OF HEALTH
School of Nursing

4700 Keele St.
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Tel 416 736-5271
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nursing@yorku.ca

To: Mayor Horwath
City of Hamilton Council Members
71 Main Street South
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear: Mayor Horwath and City of Hamilton Council Members

I am writing this letter in **full support** of Councillor Kroetsch's motion to **amend the composition of Hamilton's Board of Health to include community members and health care professionals**. As a registered nurse for almost 20 years, faculty member of York University's School of Nursing, and Hamiltonian, I am acutely aware of the complexities within our social and health systems that perpetuate inequitable access to health care across the city, particularly for low-income, racialized, women and gender-diverse individuals. We (as Hamiltonians) are always in a position to re-examine how and what we do to ensure Hamilton is a city that creates space for everyone to thrive. I believe reforming the Hamilton's Board of Health membership to include community members and health professionals enhances the expertise, lived experience, and diverse voices to better reflect Hamilton's growing population. While council may be faced with many difficult decisions, reforming the Hamilton Board of Health membership should not be one of them. Including health care workers on a Board of Health simply makes sense.

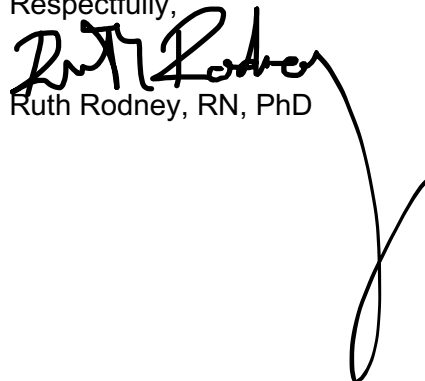
I am enthused that Councillor Kroetsch has recognized the importance of this issue and is bringing it forward once more for council to consider and pass. Prior to our delegation on March 22, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rKDIJulrq8&t=5475s>, Dr. Kassia Johnson and I spoke with Councillor Esther Pauls, Ward 7, and past Councillors Jason Farr, Ward 2, and Judi Partridge, Ward 15 to discuss the benefits of restructuring the Board of Health and better understand their hesitations, if any, to the suggested change in membership. We also attempted to discuss this issue with Councillor Tom Jackson, Ward 6, however his office declined. Our discussions with Councillor Pauls, Farr, and Partridge were fruitful and they acknowledged the usefulness of including health care providers on the Board of Health. Including health care workers on the Board of Health provides another measure of accountability as their knowledge and understanding of health issues, language, and terminology can counter what has been described as "*Bored of Health*" meetings. Moreover, my experience of logging on to delegate on March 22, 2021, and hearing defensive comments by some past council members before being alerted that delegates were on the call, including, "*McMaster wants to come and take over our Board*" meant that the motion was never given full consideration. Rather, it was viewed as an opportunity to exercise the power of their office in opposition of community members who brought forward a reasonable and practical improvement to the board of health membership.

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health

Presenting the motion to reform the board of health was and is not about vilifying council members or the medical officer of health as it was originally described in 2021 https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnXbqNCTJ81cfvUbn_vm9hFpMWTFpCQU6Vq0fSZE9i3AT_7A/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1gG8D-6JKs6FMc1UkhfPb1hfQf1Md3SJ_xGsLVy6J-GW_Z-z1nD48h3uY Rather, it is about improving health outcomes for Hamiltonians by recognizing that municipal public health decisions would benefit from greater engagement of local health care providers and community members. Moreover, municipal health boards that have similar membership models (i.e. City of Ottawa and Toronto) provide clear examples of the possibilities that await the City of Hamilton in better serving its constituency.

In closing, the foundation of great healthcare rests in the ability to practice with humility. This means consistently re-evaluating approaches and practices to care, listening to the needs of communities, and being courageous and willing to do things differently, especially when it means stretching outside of one's comfort zone. I ask that the Mayor and Council Members who, collectively, are in positions of power that impact the health outcomes of Hamiltonians support the motion to change the board of health membership and include community members and health care workers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Rodney', with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Ruth Rodney, RN, PhD





(i)(e)

Dear members of the City of Hamilton Board of Health,

I am writing to express my support of Councillor Kroetsch's motion to restructure the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton. As a pediatric oncologist at McMaster Children's Hospital and a child health researcher, I have been able to see the impacts of the decisions of the Board of Health on children in our region. It is critical that these decisions are informed by and made in alignment with those of us who spend our days focused on the health and well-being of our community and include voices from equity-deserving groups.

The Boards of Health for Ottawa and Toronto, as examples, have included members of the community and health professions, and have been better able to have specific and community-based responses to some of the most pressing health issues facing their communities. I feel as though Hamilton can and should do the same. While I understand that some members may feel that unelected health professions members may be "unaccountable", please trust me when I say that we spend the majority of our lives accountable to the individual patients in front of us each day. We take our work home, and we are available at all hours. Being able to assist in setting policies that serve the health of these patients more broadly – rather than just providing band-aids for the impacts of poor policies in our clinics – would be incredibly rewarding, and it is an affront to our oath to suggest that we would not continue to be accountable to the health of our communities in this respect as well.

I would be happy to discuss further at any juncture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Marjerrison".

Stacey Marjerrison, MD MSc FRCPC

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Associate Member, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact
Ronald Barr Professor in Pediatric Oncology
McMaster University

Pediatric Oncologist and AfterCare Program Medical Director
McMaster Children's Hospital

1200 Main St. W, Hamilton ON, L8N 3Z5
Phone: 905-521-2100 x73622; Fax: 905-521-1703
Email: marjersl@mcmaster.ca



Pediatrics

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health

Natasha Johnson, MD, FAAP, FRCPC

Department of Pediatrics, McMaster University

McMaster Children's Hospital

3A36 Health Sciences Centre, Department of Pediatrics

1280 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1

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February 7, 2023

(i)(f)

Attn: Hamilton Board of Health Members

RE: Movement to Restructure the Board of Health to Include Community Members and Health Experts

Dear Board of Health Members,

I am writing in support of Councillor Cameron Kroetsch's proposal to restructure the City of Hamilton's Board of Health to include expert and community voices among its membership. The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly illustrated the importance of having our public health policies be informed by health professionals. Hamilton is behind in including these critical perspectives among city health decisions makers compared to other Ontario cities, including Toronto and Ottawa. The strategic vision for Hamilton's health cannot be meaningfully informed or achieved without health experts on this board.

Furthermore, this restructuring should result in a membership that is more diverse by seeking and including community and health leaders from equity-deserving groups, including but not limited to: women, (in)visibly disabled people/people with (in)visible disabilities, Indigenous peoples, Black communities, racialized communities, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks, low-income communities, and newcomer communities. My colleagues and I in healthcare and anti-racist, anti-oppressive work have publicly called for a diversified, restructured board membership as crucial to addressing the impact of discrimination on health, seeking care, and health outcomes since 2021. Achieving progress towards equitable care requires equitable representation at policy- and decision-making tables.

I strongly support Councillor Kroetsch's motion and the echo the calls of my peers to restructure the Board of Health for the benefit of our city. By adopting this systemic change, we will ensure better health outcomes for residents, particularly the most vulnerable and oppressed members of our communities.

Yours sincerely,

Natasha Johnson (MD, FAAP, FRCPC)

Associate Chair, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, McMaster University

McMaster Children's Hospital

Ministry of Health

Office of Chief Medical Officer
of Health, Public Health

Box 12,
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Fax: 416 325-8412

Ministère de la Santé

Bureau du médecin hygiéniste
en chef, santé publique

Boîte à lettres 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Télec. :416 325-8412

(ii)

February 6, 2023

Mayor Andrea Horwath
Chair, Board of Health
City of Hamilton, Public Health Services
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Horwath:

Thank you for your letter dated July 19, 2022 to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, regarding the structure of the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services.

I would first like to apologize for the delay in responding. A copy of the letter was provided to my office on November 30, 2022, when my staff reached out to the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services to seek information about this issue. The ministry has no records of receiving the letter in July 2022.

Ontario's boards of health are established in three ways: those which are autonomous and established under section 49 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA); those which are established as regional municipalities by regional-specific acts; and those which are established by city-specific acts, including the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services. Under section 11 of the *City of Hamilton Act*, the City of Hamilton has the powers, rights and duties of a Board of Health under the HPPA (i.e., Hamilton City Council operates and functions as the Board of Health).

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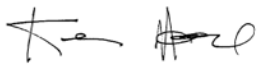
Mayor Andrea Horwath

If Hamilton City Council is considering moving from an all-council-member Board of Health model to one that also includes community members (like the Cities of Toronto and Ottawa), amendments would likely be required to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and the *City of Hamilton Act*.

As government/cabinet approval would be required, should you wish to pursue this approach, I suggest you initiate discussions with, or submit a detailed request/proposal to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Alternatively, or in addition, the Board of Health could consider establishing ad-hoc/advisory committees which may include citizen representation to address specific issues of interest or otherwise provide advice to the Board. This local option would not require legislative amendments.

In the meantime, the ministry is also considering how to move forward with strengthening public health in order to make the important changes needed to address long-standing challenges, its role in the broader health care system, and incorporate lessons learned from the pandemic. The ministry will communicate any information as it becomes available.

Yours truly,



Dr. Kieran Michael Moore, MD, CCFP(EM), FCFP, MPH, DTM&H, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health

c: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton
Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health
Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

July 19, 2022

VIA: Mail and Email

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health, Ontario
College Park 5th floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Jones,

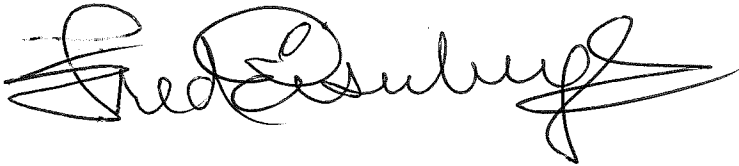
I am writing on behalf of the Board of Health for Hamilton Public Health Services to request information regarding the feasibility of including members of the public on Hamilton's Board of Health.

Currently, Hamilton has a single-tier governance structure whereby the City Council serves as the Board of Health. Over the past year, there were several delegations advocating for the inclusion of health experts and diverse community leaders on Hamilton's Board of Health. As a result, our Board of Health has endeavoured to learn more about governance and structural options. On September 20, 2021, Board of Health members participated in a governance education session facilitated by Karima Kanani, Lawyer and Partner, Miller Thompson Lawyers. This session provided an overview of the legal landscape of public health governance, principles of good governance, advancing diversity, equity and inclusion through governance, and alternate board of health structures.

Following that session, Board of Health members expressed interest in learning more about the semi-autonomous governance structure and staff reached out to Toronto and Ottawa Public Health for consultation. It is the Board's understanding that legislative change would be required under the *Health Promotion and Protection Act* as well as the *City of Hamilton Act* in order to include members of the public on Hamilton's Board of Health.

We would appreciate hearing more about the feasibility of including members of the public on the Board of Health for Hamilton Public Health, as well as steps that could be taken should the Board of Health choose to pursue this. Our Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, would be happy to meet with your staff to discuss this further as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Eisenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "E".

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

CC:
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Board of Health

From: Nolan, Tim

Sent: February 15, 2023 10:25 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Nolan, Tim

Subject: Board of Health

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:

Attachments to Motion Respecting Restructuring the Board of Health

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