

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## NOTICE OF MOTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee Date: April 20, 2023

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NANN.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR CLARK.....**

### **Seeking Advocacy Support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on Establishing an urgent Intergovernmental Platform on Mental Health**

**WHEREAS**, mental health and addictions is a critical public health concern across Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities, often in partnership with civil society organizations, play a critical role in supporting mental health in communities by providing essential services such as social and community programming, supportive housing, community outreach and engagement, and substance and addictions support services; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities are experiencing significant challenges in supporting mental health in their communities, due to insufficient resources and funding, limited access to mental health services and supports, and dramatically increasing demands for mental health services in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing housing and affordability crisis in this country; and

**WHEREAS**, Rural and remote communities suffer from a critical lack of access to mental health services, which can lead to significant negative impacts on individuals, families, and communities due to higher rates of mental health challenges and limited availability of specialized care; and

**WHEREAS**, Lack of access to mental health resources has been shown to have a disproportionate effect on racialized and indigenous communities, leading to increased marginalization and exacerbating existing disparities in health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hamilton and other municipalities in Canada have declared an emergency with respect to mental health and addictions based on the level of need in communities and lack of ability to address these issues on their own; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental health is an area where intergovernmental cooperation among all orders of government in Canada is necessary to address crisis level need, and ensure comprehensive, coordinated and effective service delivery to Canadians;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the City of Hamilton sponsors a resolution at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference seeking support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities partners on the mental health emergency in Canada; and
- (b) That the resolution includes
  - (i) That the Federation of Canadian Municipalities calls on the federal government to take urgent action to address mental health, and
    - (i) To acknowledge that mental health is a national emergency that demands urgent attention and action from all levels of government in Canada;
    - (ii) To commit to tripartite policy discussions aimed at making mental health care an integral part of Canada's universal health care system, with a view to establishing a constitutionally valid intergovernmental platform for mental health that recognizes and addresses the unique mental health needs of marginalized communities; and
    - (iii) To develop a comprehensive national mental health strategy that addresses the interconnected issues of housing, homelessness, and substance abuse, while increasing mental health investments in communities to ensure that all stakeholders, especially municipalities, community groups, and other local organizations, are properly resourced and organized for the delivery of essential mental health services and supports with sustainable, long-term funding