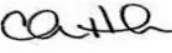




**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Recreation Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	June 1, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Menstrual Product Pilot Update (HSC20001(c) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Janine Gaunt (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2455
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (a) That the Recreation Division, Municipal Service Centres and Hamilton Food Share provide various product choices as part of the free Menstrual Product Program; and
- (b) That Hamilton Food Share purchase a variety of product required for 2023, within the allocated \$91 K budget, including an exchange with the Recreation Division's current bulk inventory, to provide varied product choices for the Menstrual Product Program, at no additional cost for 2023.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the May 4, 2023 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting, staff provided information relating to the Menstrual Product Pilot Project Update (HSC20001(b)). This report and presentation summarized uptake of the program at five Recreation pilot sites and through the Hamilton Food Share program.

The update also included recommendations to expand the program to all City of Hamilton Recreation Centres, Arenas and Municipal Service Centres using existing inventory for 2023. Hamilton Food Share also requested annual funding of \$91 K to support the program for 2023 with efforts to move to a sustainable model for 2024.

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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.

Discussion around providing various options of menstrual products ensued and staff were directed to report back on the financial implications of providing various product choices for products distributed by the Recreation Division and Hamilton Food Share.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: As Hamilton Food Share is in a position to purchase various inventory for their 2023 supply, and whereas the Recreation Division currently has an inventory of regular sized products, the two organizations shall enter into an arrangement for the remainder of 2023 whereby the Recreation Division provides inventory of regular sized product to Hamilton Food Share in exchange for varied size product at no additional cost to the 2023 Menstrual Product Project.

As stated in Report HSC20001(b), The Recreation Division will request funding through the 2024 Tax Operating Budget process. Sourcing a variety of products will be included in the budget consideration. Should Hamilton Food Share fail to be fully self-sustaining for 2024, \$91 K will be a Council referred item in the 2024 Budget process.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

On February 26, 2020, Council approved a 12-month Menstrual Products Pilot (MPP) project to provide free menstrual products. The MPP project was developed with the following principles in mind:

- Supporting individuals who menstruate and are experiencing financial need
- Upholding personal dignity
- Providing choice

Through a universal approach, menstrual products were made available in women's and universal washrooms in five recreation centres, one in each recreation district. The targeted approach provided funding to Hamilton Food Share (HFS) and distribution of menstrual products through HFS's network of local foodbanks.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, full implementation of the pilot was delayed until 2022. On May 4, 2023, Emergency and Community Services Committee received an update on the project from Recreation staff and Hamilton Food Share. Report HSC20001(b),

recommended expansion of the program to all recreation centres, arenas and municipal service centres. Hamilton Food Share also reported on the success of distribution through the emergency food network and requested \$91 K to support continuation of the program for 2023.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

NONE

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

### **Hamilton Food Share**

Bulk purchase of regular sized products was coordinated by Hamilton Food Share in 2022, whereby the product purchase was distributed through Hamilton Food Share and its emergency food network, as well as the Recreation Division.

Based on 2023 pricing received by Hamilton Food Share, they are confident that the program can be coordinated for 2023 with no additional funding and products provided would include various absorbency of tampons (regular, super, super plus) and various pads (regular, overnight).

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Access to menstrual products is essential for health, well-being, and full participation in society. Lack of access to menstrual products due to financial constraints or “period poverty” is a health equity issue affecting girls, women and persons who menstruate. All Hamilton residents deserve the opportunity to reach their full health potential without disadvantage due to social determinants of health.

Survey respondents from the Recreation Division, gathered during the pilot program, suggested that a way to improve the program would be to have access to more product choice of varying sizes and absorbencies.

Hamilton Food Share also conducted a survey of people accessing the program and 34% indicated that the program did not fully meet their needs as it related to the quantity or type of menstrual products available.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

If recommendation (b) of this report is not accepted, the Recreation Division has acquired a bulk inventory of regular sized tampons and pads to supply to the program for 2023. The Pilot Project allocation of \$30 K has been exhausted. In order to purchase a varied supply, an additional \$13 K would be required for 2023.

**SUBJECT: Menstrual Product Pilot Update (HSC20001(c) (City Wide) - Page 4 of 4**

Hamilton Food Share's current position is that they need to re-stock their shelves. They have reported that the allocated \$91 K will meet their needs in 2023 to provide various product choice.

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

**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.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None