

Pilon, Janet

Subject: I support Hamilton Council

From: Lyn Folkes

Sent: May 15, 2023 4:08 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>

Subject: I support Hamilton Council

Dear Hamilton Council members,

I live in Ward 8 in Hamilton with my family of four, and we run a private but very small construction firm to eek out a modest living in Ontario -- where the cost of everything seems to have doubled since the pandemic. Our family can't afford to pay for the province's poor development strategy that favours the rich at the expense of the average taxpayer in Hamilton.

Myself and my family all support the much more progressive growth strategy of our current Hamilton Council. We are so excited and impressed to have a knowledgeable Council that engages with us so well, and clearly wants to do what is best for the public today -- what is necessary in this less predictable and changing world to maintain a livable and peaceful space for us all. Thank you from the bottom of my heart - my husband and I do worry very much about our children's future here in Ontario.

My own experience with the provincial government has been nothing short of terrorizing, constantly stressful and being completely ignored. I feel like they are laughing at my struggles to be heard most of the time and I continue to be baffled at how fast Premier Ford seems to be able to undermine our democracy in Ontario! It's absolutely shocking. My children are losing hope for their future quickly and wondering if they'll be able to make a decent living with costs rising so fast.

Premier Ford's development schemes are harmful to us all. And I say "schemes" instead of "plans" because he has been a dishonest leader to me as he breaks promises on Greenbelt preservation and excludes me from participating in my own province's future - it's dictatorial through and through! But what really stymies me is how this was allowed to happen in what was a democratic province that stood for everything Canadian??

Someone has to stand up to this terrible government and put them in their place, and quickly! Premier Ford is very hypocritical in saying that Prime Minister Trudeau can't tell him what to do -- but then he orders good elected leaders of municipalities around like their his puppets! It's so ludicrous, I just can't believe this could happen in Ontario! Premier Ford is not on the public's side and he does not speak for me or my family, or my large extended family for that matter (most of whom live in Ontario).

I support Hamilton Council 100% to lead our city into the future. We should not let anyone stand in our way of true progress. I will help how I can and will see you at the virtual meeting tonight.

Please promote growth within our existing boundaries only, where transport and services are already present. My son's can't afford to live or buy a house in the country - they may never be able to afford it! Only rich people can, and they would be destroying our lives in the process. There's nothing good or useful about the province's boundary expansion except to make rich people more rich -- and at our expense! I'm SO ANGRY!!!

We can't afford to treat wealthy people! We have no benefits or pension and have worked incredibly hard all our lives not to be a burden on the taxpayer. We take care of ourselves and happily pay our taxes on time but we don't want our taxes paying for unwanted, unnecessary bad development plans for housing or highways or excess gravel pits, etc...

The province makes very bad choices to support rich companies at our peril, and it's not just their housing strategies that will fail as well as bankrupt us. Premier Ford wants to build nuclear power plants in our cities instead of investing in renewable power which is all we need today. Professor Mark Jacobson in the US has audited Ontario in detail and says we can't succeed if we depend on nuclear or traditional fossil fuel energy sources. Nuclear plants are exorbitantly expensive and can't be operational fast enough to help our society combat the climate emergency effectively in any way! Yet the province continues down this destructive path for Ontario. It scares me to death. We've already been over-charged for energy here for years - now it will only get worse!??

We can't trust this provincial government at all - they only seem capable of making poor choices -- and that's because they aren't making their choices to support the people of Ontario. They are supporting developers and that means they aren't doing their job as politicians! The courts should stop them dead in their tracks as far as I'm concerned. Why haven't they been stopped? They are doing illegal things like excluding the public from participation on our own development future. We pay the Premier's income and he's allowed to ignore us? It's incredibly unbelievable that this is happening in Ontario today!

I believe very strongly in what the SSHO group advocates - which supports the municipal government's direction too. See below for a list that SSHO published online. It all makes such perfect sense.

All the stress and pain in my life currently is caused by the province walking all over our democratic rights in Ontario. We can't let them continue --what freedom will be stolen from us next??! This is cause for a "provincial Freedom Rally" - our freedom is being stolen today from our own leaders. I've written SO MANY letters, attended SO MANY rallies, donated SO MUCH to support democracy in Ontario -- it makes me want to cry that no one's acting harder on this who has the power to make better change!

This is serious but people seem to take our freedom for granted too much - we're losing it with Ford at the helm dictating destructive ideas to get rich personally. We all know it. We have to fight it.

Anything our family can do to help, please ask. A big thank you to all our good councillors in Hamilton today! I'm sorry the atmosphere for progress isn't easier for you and our great city of Hamilton.

Sincerely and with sadness for the current state of Ontario politics,
Lyn Folkes and family

SSHO's ideas that I support and questions that need answering, from a letter they sent to the public:

- Let's prioritize growth within our pre-2022 boundaries where transit exists.
- Let's promote density within existing urban neighbourhoods, removing **rigid** site restrictions and minimum parking regulations.
- Let's ensure NOT ONE SHOVEL IN THE GROUND before the next election on our finite, fragile farmland.
- WHO will pay for growth on expansion lands? We need a report like the one [Ottawa](#) did.
- Let's get existing approvals built!
- Let's incentivize and promote affordable laneways
- HOW can we ensure affordable options, purpose built rentals, and public investment in Housing? There is NO federal support for housing away from transit.