

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: June 7, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. MCMEEKIN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Municipal Resolution in Support of Basic Income for the City of Hamilton

WHEREAS, The City of Hamilton recognizes the social and economic challenges faced by its residents that have a detrimental impact on the determinants of health including income inequality, poverty, inadequate housing and precarious employment;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the City of Hamilton to strive for the well-being and prosperity of all its residents, which includes ensuring access to basic needs and opportunities to improve health;

WHEREAS, through addressing poverty and improving access to healthcare, a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income can potentially reduce healthcare costs enabling people to afford preventive care and timely treatments while preventing more costly healthcare interventions, leading to better overall population health,

WHEREAS, a Basic Income program was tested in Hamilton during the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project between 2017 and 2019 and more than 1,000 local residents reported positive outcomes including the alleviation of food and housing insecurity, improved physical and mental health, financial stability, social equity and greater connection to the labour market;

WHEREAS, the Federal Budget Office upon reviewing the concept of a national Guaranteed Basic Income program determined it could, if properly set out, be a major economic driver to the Canadian economy; and

WHEREAS, a Basic Income program can complement and enhance existing social support systems, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing the needs of Hamilton residents including persons with disabilities and aligns and complements the City of Hamilton’s Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton supports the concept of a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to combat poverty, income inequality, and economic insecurity within our community; and supports the continuing advocacy of the Basic Income Hamilton

Working Group (under the auspices of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction) to share research and the unique experiences of local residents who participated in the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project;

- (b) That the City of Hamilton calls upon the provincial and federal governments to collaborate to implement a national Guaranteed Livable Basic Income program;
- (c) That Hamilton City Council directs the Office of the Mayor to write a letter to the Prime Minister, local Members of Parliament and the Senate, the Premier of Ontario, local Members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, calling on these orders of government to work collaboratively towards implementing a National Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to eradicate poverty and homelessness, and ensure everyone has sufficient income to meet their basic needs; and
- (d) That the City of Hamilton encourages other municipalities across the province and the country to join in advocating for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income as a key policy tool in the fight against poverty and inequality and to this end, Hamilton City Council will advocate through its representatives at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities for Guaranteed Livable Basic Income resolutions at meetings of those organizations.