



Environment
Hamilton



Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton



Canadian
Environmental Law
Association
EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH.

June 3rd 2024

Written delegation from ACORN Hamilton, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and Environment Hamilton regarding 10.1 Expansion of Subsidy for Air-Conditioning to Low-Income Households (BOH24010(a)) (City Wide)

Our coalition strongly supports the expansion of the \$350 air conditioner subsidy and the expansion of the program's eligibility criteria. Our groups came together in the spring of 2023 to advocate for municipal tenant protections from extreme heat.

On April 29th we delegated to the Public Health committee in support of the 2024 heat response strategy and urged Councillors to consider the following additions:

1. A temporary free air conditioning program targeted to low-income people and/or people most vulnerable to heat because of a medical condition or age.
2. The City of Hamilton to move forward this summer with offering free HSR fares during heat warnings.
3. All items in the Heat Response Plan to be funded for summer 2024 and include clear timelines for implementation.

The climate crisis is inherently unfair, leaving those who have historically contributed the least to the crisis suffering the most, globally as well as locally. We are looking forward to supporting Council and staff in implementing an adequate temperature by-law. In the meantime, an expanded free air conditioner program is an interim emergency measure to protect the health of some of our most vulnerable neighbours across the City.

Using \$52,500 of the City's \$2.5 million climate change reserve fund to protect vulnerable residents this summer and afford them basic comfort in their homes is an impactful and financially prudent short-term solution to the problem of extreme heat. Council must act with urgency when people's health is at stake.

Our coalition looks forward to continuing to work with city staff and City Councillors on this important issue.