

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council Date: August 16, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. McMEEKIN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Support for Migrants Matter

WHEREAS, Migrant workers are essential to the economic well-being of many working farms;

WHEREAS, most of the 450 migrant workers employed in 27 Flamborough working farms are from Mexico and the Caribbean, with many spending more time in Canada than in their own country (2/3rds);

WHEREAS, there are many unique day-to-day challenges migrant workers face, including the following:

- language issues and the need for translation assistance;
- access to health and counselling assistance;
- loneliness and camaraderie (building trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together);
- dealing with the personal cost and sacrifice associated with trying to build a better life for their family and kids;
- asking for help when required, eg. Provincial 24 hour hotline # 1-866-267-6255;
- need for occasional conflict resolution and advocacy support;
- health issues, from supplying basic first aid kits to more complex situations;
- accessing the safety equipment needed for farm work (eg. partners like Mark's Work Warehouse and 100 Women Who Care, who have provided work boots, safety shoes and Sherpa-lined hoodies); and
- mobility issues assisted in part through bicycle donations;

WHEREAS, there is a community-based volunteer working group known as Migrants Matter, who guide, befriend, assist and where necessary, advocate with farm partners and others to assist migrant workers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That a grant of \$10,000 be provided to the Migrants Matter group in support of their work, funding from the Ward 15 Non-Property Tax Revenue Account (3301609615), and
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.