

# City of Hamilton

## MTFTAA Focus Groups Outline

September 18, 2024

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### PURPOSE

This document outlines a draft version of the proposed themes for focus groups as part of the Mayor's Task Force on Transparency, Access, and Accountability consultation process. These themes aim to capture a wide range of community perspectives and focus on issues central to the Task Force's mandate. These focus groups will play a pivotal role in generating meaningful insights that will inform the recommendations presented to City Council. Task Force feedback will be essential in finalizing the focus group themes to ensure they comprehensively address the needs and concerns of Hamilton's diverse communities.

### ENTERPRISE-LED FOCUS GROUPS

#### 1. Social Services and Community Support

- Explore how social service providers and community organizations can work with the City to improve access to services
- **Potential Participants:** Wesley Urban Ministries, YWCA Hamilton, Good Shepherd Centre, Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, housing advocates
- **Focus Areas:** Access to services, barriers for marginalized communities, collaboration between the City and social service organizations.

#### 2. Business and Economic Development

- **Objective:** Discuss strategies for fostering economic growth, supporting local businesses, and balancing economic development with community needs.
- **Potential Participants:** **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)**, developers, economic development agencies.
- **Focus Areas:** Economic development, business support, public-private partnerships, transparency in zoning and planning decisions.

#### 4. Facilities and Urban Planning

- **Objective:** Focus on issues related to city development, public facilities, transportation infrastructure, and urban planning, ensuring the City's policies are transparent, accessible, and inclusive of various community needs.
- **Potential Participants:** Hamilton Cycling Committee, Transportation for Liveable Communities, Sport Hamilton, Hamilton Conservation Authority, Recreational Facility Users, neighborhood associations, BIA (Business Improvement Areas) representatives, city planners, and developers.
- **Focus Areas:** Public spaces (parks, recreation centers, sports facilities, transportation infrastructure (bike lanes, transit, pedestrian areas), transparency in planning decisions.

## 5. Health and Public Safety

- **Objective:** Delve into transparency and accountability in public health services and community safety measures
- **Potential Participants:** Hamilton Police Services, public health representatives, paramedics, neighborhood associations.
- **Focus Areas:** Public safety, transparency in policing and health services, accountability in service delivery, emergency preparedness.

## 7. Education and Youth Engagement

- **Objective:** Discuss how the City can better engage youth and educational institutions in civic processes, and encourage young people to participate in governance.
- **Potential Participants:** Mohawk College, McMaster University, student unions, youth organizations, mentorship programs.
- **Focus Areas:** Youth participation in city governance, educational partnerships, creating opportunities for young people to influence local policies.

## SPRC HAMILTON - LED FOCUS GROUPS

### 8. Indigenous Communities

- **Objective:** Engage local Indigenous communities in Hamilton to explore how the City can improve collaboration and ensure transparent, accountable, and culturally respectful services and programs.
- **Potential Participants:** Aboriginal Health Centre, Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAAMB), Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Indigenous elders

### 9. Equity-Deserving Community Members – Virtual Meeting

- **Objective:** Provide a virtual platform for equity-deserving groups to discuss challenges and barriers in accessing City services and engaging in civic processes
- **Potential Participants:** Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Empowerment Squared, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, YWCA Hamilton, Good Shepherd Centre, racialized communities, newcomers, individuals with disabilities.

### 9. Equity-Deserving Community Members – In-Person Meeting

- **Objective:** Provide a virtual platform for equity-deserving groups to discuss challenges and barriers in accessing City services and engaging in civic processes
- **Potential Participants:** Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion, Empowerment Squared, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, YWCA Hamilton, Good Shepherd Centre, racialized communities, newcomers, individuals with disabilities.

