

March 17, 205

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

First I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this statement and for considering it when making your decision regarding the soot motion.

My name is Dana Stevenson and I am a lifelong Hamiltonian and I love this city. For the past 30 years or so I've lived on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In all the time I've lived here I have never seen the black soot/fallout/grime as bad as it has been over the past year.

My first complaint to the MECP was in February or March of last year as I started to notice how dirty the snow was in our neighbourhood. There was a black layer on top of the snow in my front and back yards, in my neighbours yards, in the local park and my dog would end up dirty after walking through or rolling on top of it. The MECP did respond but they told me they didn't see anything to take samples of.

Then things got much worse over the spring, summer and fall of 2024. It was impossible to spend anytime outside in our neighbourhood without ending up dirty.

- If you used a porch handrail your hand was black.
- When you picked up your garbage cans or recycling bins your hands ended up black.
- If you sat down on outdoor furniture that had not been washed your clothes ended up black.
- If you walked around outside your shoes ended up black.
- I had to have shoes for the neighbourhood and shoes for outside of the neighbourhood because the ones I wore around my house were so disgustingly dirty.
- I had to bathe my dog 3 or 4 times last summer/fall when normally I would only bathe him once. And I had to wash his feet with soap and water after nearly every walk.
- I also had to wash my own feet and ankles several times after walking my dog in my neighbourhood as there was a ring of dirt at the top of my running shoes.
- Every time I wanted to spend anytime outside I would have to wash everything down with soap and water. Normally I would only do this a couple of times during the summer/fall season.
- I had to power wash my patio and porch 4 times last summer/fall where normally I would only do this once.
- In the newer sidewalks in the neighbourhood you could see animal prints and children's footprints in the dirt.
- The playground equipment in the park on Holly Ave was filthy. The children that used it ended up black.

I talked to some neighbours and they had all noticed the same or similar things as I was seeing. At least one or two of them had already contacted the MECP. And so I called the MECP again to complain. They came out to my house the following day and took samples. They were not very

encouraging though as she basically told me that the results would likely come back as road dust. This was in September 2024. In February 2025 I received the following results:

Summary/Conclusion:

Sample 17520001 appears to be a mixture of normal dust, smaller amounts of organic/biomaterial, trace amount of soot and unknown carbonaceous material.

But as you see it took a long time to get the results from the MECP. I had several emails with them over the course of the fall. I reached out to T. Hwang my ward's councilor. I reached out to my MPP and MP and the Mayor. I went door to door with one of my neighbours. We were asking them to join us in this fight. I printed out sheets that had the contact information of everyone mentioned above so that they too could call and/or email to complain.

And here we are and once again the snow in my neighbourhood turned black (fortunately now it is all but gone). One morning last week my dog came in after rolling in the snow and he was black.

All of the above is a huge inconvenience that has a negative impact on my quality of life but I am also concerned about the impacts this particulate may be having on my physical well being and the physical well being of my neighbours and our animals.

- Are we breathing it in?
- Are we absorbing it through our skin and mucous membranes?
- Are our animals ingesting it when they groom themselves?
- Are we ingesting it through the food we grow in our gardens?
- Is it contaminating our water supply?

None of the above can be answered until we know what it is.

Please approve the motion before you so that we can get the answers to these questions.

Thank you.

Regards,

Dana Stevenson

Dana Stevenson BAccS, CPA, CGA