

# CITY OF HAMILTON

## M O T I O N

Audit, Finance, Administration Committee: May 1, 2025

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG .....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....**

### **One Year Pilot Funding for Financially Assisted Social Prescribing Project in Ward 4**

WHEREAS, Social Prescribing is a holistic approach to healthcare that brings together social and medical models of health and wellness to individuals and communities, best known for its integration within the National Health System starting in the 1990s in the United Kingdom where it has been proven to result in better health outcomes and reduced emergency room wait times;

WHEREAS, Social Prescribing bridges the gap between clinical care and social care by referring patients to local, non-clinical services that are chosen according to the client's interests, goals, and gifts and could include opportunities for some to reconnect back to ancestral lands, attend cultural or art-focused events that they would otherwise not be able to, and even lead to social connections for those experiencing loneliness;

WHEREAS, acknowledging the social determinants of health and the fact that poverty has a direct correlation to health, Wards 2, 3, and 4 have been identified in the 2010 Code Red Reports and subsequent census datasets as having the highest health needs coupled with the lowest average income per household in Hamilton and thereby individuals living in these wards have life expectancies 10 years less than other Hamilton residents;

WHEREAS, Social Prescribing ensures health equity and, with Financial Assistance, it will continue to remove barriers that clients may experience including economic, geographical, interpersonal, or psychological and it is about providing necessary supports and empowering people to be co-creators in improving their own health and well-being with trusted relationships that already exist within community; and

WHEREAS, since launching in September 2024 with the goal to increase health equity and informed care and services in the Hamilton region by bringing the health and social sectors together, the Canadian Red Cross has convened 29 local community organizations including the Greater Hamilton Health Network Primary Care Network, YMCA HBB, Wesley, De Dwa Da Dehs Nye Aboriginal Health Centre and many more to form the Social Prescribing Service Coordination Community Collective;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- (a) That a one-time grant be allocated to the Financially Assisted Social Prescribing Project with the Canadian Red Cross that will directly support Ward 4 residents in their health and wellbeing journey in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 funded from the Ward 4 Discretionary Account #3302309400;
- (b) That funds be exempt on a one-time basis and not be counted toward any formula that restricts regular funding from the City including the City Enrichment Fund (e.g. the City's 30% formula); and
- (c) 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.