



## *Hamilton Challenger Sports Association*

558 Upper Gage Avenue  
Unit 2, Suite 245  
Hamilton, ON, L8V 4J6  
[www.hamiltonchallengersports.ca](http://www.hamiltonchallengersports.ca)



May 30, 2025

### **Re: Mohawk Sports Park Community Hub**

To City of Hamilton Emergency and Community Services Committee,

I am writing to express support for the revitalization plan for Mohawk Sports Park as proposed by the Mohawk Sports Park Council. Of interest to me is the potential to create a much-needed space with features to support advancement of inclusive and accessible sports.

Over the 30 plus years since Hamilton Challenger started in Hamilton, we've had the challenge of seeing, and struggling to keep pace with slow, but steady growth in sports for people with disabilities. We started with about a dozen baseball players in 1991 and now have over 240 members involved in a variety of sports, including the potential for one of our athletes to be a member of Canada's National Para-Boccia team.

One of our challenges has been to find available and completely inclusive and accessible venues for our programs. In 2007 we were awarded much needed space at Inch Park for our growing baseball program and later benefited from upgrades to Inch Park to improve accessibility. We have also benefited from the development of Westmount Rec Center, however, our Fall and Winter Sports programs are now 'bulging at the seams' within the time and space available to us at Westmount, and we are seeing the need for additional space for growth in numbers and to accommodate other sports.

The planned inclusive and accessible playground at Inch Park, although not a site for sports, will be a popular site for healthy outdoor activities and I think will be a popular attraction in the city.

'Abilities Centers' are now available in some cities in Ontario, of note is the Whitby Abilities Center and the Walker Sports and Abilities Centre in St Catharines. The Whitby Abilities Center will be consulted for input into design and programming of the Community Hub. This will help ensure that, although not an Abilities Center, the Community Hub will move Hamilton an important step forward in providing a sports venue that is designed to accommodate the unique needs of the 'growing' inclusive / accessible sports community.

Thank You

Mike Moore  
HCSA Board Chair