



Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: Support for Motion to Extend the Recycling Pilot – General Issues Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the General Issues Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Hamilton BIA regarding the motion brought forward by Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, and seconded by Councillor Nann, to extend the City of Hamilton's recycling pilot program for non-eligible properties through the end of 2026.

We support this motion insofar as it prevents the cancellation of recycling services for non-eligible properties on very short notice. However, we continue to have serious concerns about the underlying direction toward ending this program altogether.

In assessing whether recycling services for non-eligible properties should continue beyond the provincial transition, City staff identified several compelling reasons why discontinuing the program would be problematic. Staff noted that cancellation would likely result in recyclable materials entering the garbage stream, place additional pressure on the City's landfill, and shift significant costs onto businesses, many of which are not in a position to absorb this expense.

Conversely, staff concluded that continuing the program supports equity among properties, positions the City to lead by example in waste diversion, and aligns with Council's waste reduction and climate objectives. Maintaining service was also identified as a means of preserving established recycling habits while allowing time for the Province to address the ongoing service gap for non-eligible properties.

For these reasons, while we support the extension proposed in this motion as a necessary interim measure, we do not believe the City's own analysis supports the eventual cancellation of the program. We urge the Committee to support the motion to extend the pilot and to reconsider the assumption that ending recycling services for non-eligible properties is an appropriate or inevitable outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Emily Walsh'.

Emily Walsh
Executive Director
Downtown Hamilton BIA