

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

General Issues Committee: April 15, 2026

MOVED BY MAYOR A. HORWATH.....

Feasibility of a 50-Metre Pool in the City of Hamilton

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to supporting the health, wellness, and recreational needs of residents through the provision of high-quality community recreation infrastructure;

WHEREAS, swimming is consistently identified as one of the most desired recreational and sport activities in Canada, with strong public demand for increased access to aquatic facilities;

WHEREAS, 25-metre pools are not sufficient to meet the needs of competitive aquatic sport, limiting opportunities for training, competition, and sport development;

WHEREAS, Ontario is experiencing a significant infrastructure gap, with only 19 50-metre pools across the province, and only a small number constructed in the 21st century;

WHEREAS, six of the seven largest cities in Canada without a 50-metre pool are located in Ontario, demonstrating a disproportionate lack of access to this critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, there are currently no publicly accessible 50-metre pools west of the Greater Toronto Area, with the exception of McMaster University's pool, which was constructed in the 1960s and is approaching end-of-life;

WHEREAS, Hamilton has a strong legacy of excellence in aquatic sport, having produced notable athletes including Olympian Joanne Malar, Jimmy Thompson, Patty Thompson, and Jack McCormick;

WHEREAS, investment in a 50-metre pool has the potential to significantly expand programming capacity, support learn-to-swim initiatives, improve community health outcomes, and position Hamilton to attract sport tourism and regional competitions;

WHEREAS, the Aquatic Sport Council of Ontario has identified the need for regionally significant aquatic facilities anchored by 50-metre pools, supported through partnerships across municipalities, institutions, and other sectors; and

WHEREAS, other Ontario municipalities, including the Cities of Mississauga and Waterloo, are actively exploring the feasibility of developing 50-metre aquatic facilities and seeking senior government support for such infrastructure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee on the feasibility of developing a 50-metre aquatic facility in the City of Hamilton, including:
 - (i) capital and operating considerations;
 - (ii) potential locations, including integration into existing or planned recreation facilities;
 - (iii) a scan of other municipalities to identify best practices and emerging opportunities; and,
 - (iv) potential partnership models, including with neighbouring municipalities, post-secondary institutions, and other partners;

- (b) That the Mayor communicate Hamilton's interest in advancing regionally significant aquatic infrastructure to the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada, including the need for dedicated funding to support such facilities.