



City of Hamilton Memorandum

To: Chair
Community Benefits Protocol Sub-Committee

Date: April 20, 2026

Report No: HSC26036

Subject/Title: Prototype Social Procurement Registry – McMaster MBA
GRIT Week

Ward(s) Affected: City Wide

Information

Staff supporting the development of the Community Benefits Framework and the Hamilton Community Benefits Network participated in McMaster University's 2026 Generating Resilient and Integrative Thinkers (GRIT) Week, an initiative led by the DeGroot School of Business. GRIT Week is an intensive five-day experiential learning program for first year DeGroot MBA students, during which student teams partnered with organizations to gain insight into the complexities of non-profit operations and social entrepreneurship. The team assigned to work with staff designed a prototype tool for a self-identification and verification process that feeds into a registry of social enterprises, social-purpose businesses, and local and diverse-owned businesses. The proposed registry is designed to support implementation of the City's emerging Community Benefits Framework, with a specific focus on the Social Procurement pillar, and to function as an enabling tool for Procurement operations. Students designed a mechanism that explains how businesses can accurately self-identify, how the City can screen and validate claims to reduce fraud, and how Procurement staff can meaningfully use this data when evaluating and awarding contracts. The final presentation in Appendix "A" outlines the recommended process, registry design and proposed success metrics.

Consultation

McMaster DeGroote School of Business MBA Students

McMaster DeGroote School of Business, Director of MBA Programs

Senior Project Manager - Special Procurement Projects, Procurement, Corporate Services

Appendices and Schedules Attached

Appendix A: Social Procurement Registry Presentation

Prepared by:

María Bedoya, Lead – Community Benefits Framework, Strategy & Continuous Improvement, Healthy & Safe Communities

Romas Keliacius, Manager, Strategy & Continuous Improvement, Healthy & Safe Communities

Submitted and Recommended by:

Grace Mater, General Manager, Healthy & Safe Communities

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.