



Hamilton

**FAIRNESS TO HAMILTON CAMPAIGN SUB-COMMITTEE**

**REPORT 13-001**

**Monday January 21, 2013**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Room 264,**

**Hamilton City Hall**

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<b>Present:</b>	Councillor S. Merulla (Chair) Councillors B. McHattie (Vice-Chair), J. Partridge D. Adames, Tom Cooper
<b>Absent with Regrets:</b>	Councillor T. Whitehead E. Myrie

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**THE FAIRNESS TO HAMILTON CAMPAIGN PRESENTS REPORT 13-001 AND  
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Government Relations Strategy (CM13003) (Item 5.1)**

- (a) That a Special Meeting of the General Issues Committee be held respecting Council's strategic priorities for 2013 and 2014 and that this meeting focus on the following issues:
  - (i) Identifying strategic priorities and attaching precise government relations strategies to individual priorities.
  - (ii) Identifying upcoming strategic priorities to address opportunities that may become available over this time period.
  - (iii) Identify the involvement of the Office of the Mayor in relation to individual strategic priorities.
- (b) That staff be directed to prepare a briefing for the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their recent, ongoing and anticipated discussions with the provincial and federal governments on strategic priorities.

- (c) That local advocacy groups, such as the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, be invited to attend and present at the Special General Issues Committee meeting.
- (d) That the Office of the Mayor be requested to provide a presentation at the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their past and ongoing government relations.
- (e) That Report CM13003 respecting Government Relations Strategy, attached hereto as Appendix A, be approved in principle and referred to the Special General Issues Committee meeting.

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:**

**(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

The Clerk advised there were no changes to the agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

None

**(c) MINUTES (Item 3)**

**(i) September 26, 2012 (Item 3.1)**

The Minutes of September 26, 2012 were approved as presented.

**(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 5)**

**(i) Government Relations Strategy (CM13003) (Item 5.1)**

- (a) On a Motion a Special Meeting of the General Issues Committee shall be convened respecting Councils Strategic Priorities for the 2013 and 2014 and that this meeting should focus on the following issues:

- (i) Identifying Strategic Priorities and precisely what the Government Relations Strategy are for these priorities.

- (ii) Identifying upcoming Strategic Priorities to address opportunities that may become available over this time period.
- (iii) Identify the involvement of the Office of the Mayor in relation to individual strategic priorities.

Committee members discussed the need to formalize strategic priorities that require government relations. They discussed how this would lead to creating a formalized government relations strategy for each individual priority.

Staff outlined the work done to date and provided an update on their meeting o November 2012 with representation from all area MP's and MPP's at which the City Manager provided a presentation.

Committee members discussed creating a complete picture of all government relations, be they internally or externally. There was some discussion on how best to involve external advocacy groups to get a more comprehensive overall approach.

The Motion was amended through the addition of sub-sections (b) through (e) which read as follows:

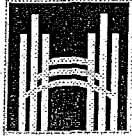
- (b) That staff be directed to prepare a briefing for the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their recent, ongoing and anticipated discussions with the provincial and federal governments on strategic priorities.
- (c) That local advocacy groups, such as the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, be invited to attend and present at the Special General Issues Committee meeting.
- (d) That the Office of the Mayor be requested to provide a presentation at the Special General Issues Committee meeting that outlines their past and ongoing government relations.
- (e) That Report CM13003 respecting Government Relations Strategy be approved in principle and referred to the Special General Issues Committee meeting.

**(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 7)**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

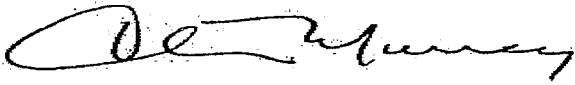
Councillor S. Merulla  
Chair, Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-  
committee

Andy Grozelle  
Legislative Co-ordinator  
Office of the City Clerk



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Chair and Members Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> January 21, 2013	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Government Relations Strategy (CM13003) (City Wide)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Chris Murray City Manager	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Mike Kirkopoulos x 2261
<b>SIGNATURE:</b> 	

**Council Direction:**

N/A

**Background:**

Currently the City of Hamilton has two existing committees/structures designed to liaise with senior levels of government. These are the Fairness to Hamilton Committee and the Government Relations (GR) Contact Team.

The Fairness to Hamilton committee, formerly known as the Social Services Downloading Steering Committee, was established by Council in September 2005. Their mandate is to provide recommendations to the provincial and federal governments regarding the structure of social services funding and continue to build a broader coalition across Hamilton and the Province of Ontario.

In October 2011, Hamilton City Council also established the Government Relations Contact team. Its role is described through the following approved motion:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council is committed to improving our best practices in government relations;
- (b) That Council and the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Committee shall maximize utilization of staff and elected officials with proven competencies in government relations;

- (c) That Council shall meet annually in an in-camera Council workshop pursuant to Section 239(3.1) Ontario Municipal Act to educate, train and improve the knowledge of elected officials and senior management in government relations best practices;*
- (d) That Council shall annually debate and approve a list of municipal priorities for discussions with all levels of government;*
- (e) That further to Appendix G of the City's Procedural By-law respecting the Role of the Mayor, that a Government Relations Contact Team consisting of the Mayor, Chair of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-committee and the City Manager and additional city staff or elected officials on an as required basis, be approved to assist the Mayor in advocating formal city council approved positions to senior levels of government.*

As a result of both the aforementioned groups and a commitment through the City's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan to improve the City of Hamilton's Governmental Relations efforts this report is meant to provide a framework for the City's future government relations activities.

In the City Of Hamilton, government relations will:

- be consistent with the City Of Hamilton's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan
- support priorities established by Council
- foster consistent and regular messaging
- understand and respect jurisdictional authority

In undertaking actions related to government relations, the City of Hamilton will:

- be open, honest, and transparent
- provide credible, reliable, factual information
- seek collaborative solutions and approaches
- establish regular meetings with Hamilton political representatives
- use media opportunities effectively and appropriately

The City of Hamilton will work with local, provincial and national institutions and agencies. These include but are not limited to:

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO)
- Big City Mayors Caucus (BCMC)
- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
- Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

There may also be opportunities to work with specific Provincial and Federal committees where they exist.

**Priority Areas:**

Priority areas for government relations were developed in collaboration with City Council and Senior Management Team (SMT) as part of the 2012 – 2015 Strategic Plan.

These priority areas include:

- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Housing
- AODA

On a more regular basis (yearly) as outlined in recommendation (d) of the Government Relations Contact Team motion:

*(d) That Council shall annually debate and approve a list of municipal priorities for discussions with both senior levels of government;*

Council may add additional areas of focus to the four priority areas that relate more to specific actions to be carried out on an annual basis.

Furthermore, there will also be priority given to developing a tri-partite agreement specific for Hamilton. These agreements are commonly described as Urban Development Agreements (UDA) in Canada. Examples of such agreements have occurred in other jurisdictions. For example, the Winnipeg Regeneration Strategy, and Vancouver's Urban Development Agreement which specifically focused on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

UDAs are tri-partite agreements of Canada's three levels of government (local, provincial and federal), in which formal partnerships, structures and funding arrangements are created with the purpose of tackling complex and intersecting social and economic problems in an urban context. The resources provided in support of UDAs are a mix of 'new' contributions and those assembled through coordination and the redirection of existing financial allocations of municipal, provincial and federal governments. Equally important is the commitment of the partners to develop collaborative ways of working. UDAs are often helpful frameworks that allow levels of government to work in new ways with community organizations and citizens themselves.

UDAs require participation and partnership with non-profit organizations, "grass-roots" groups and citizens themselves. As such, these types of agreements offer a useful framework for Hamilton given our increased engagement with citizens. In addition, Hamilton's focus on "place based" initiatives such as the Neighbourhood Development Strategy provides a good context to explore these types of agreements.

While these agreements offer a promising opportunity for Hamilton it is important to note that UDAs have all but disappeared in recent years. No new agreements are being developed currently and previous agreements have expired and were not renewed. In this current climate, Hamilton will need to look at creative new ways to encourage partnerships with senior levels of government.

**Mayor's Role:**

The role of the Mayor as it relates to the Government Relations Strategy is outlined in recommendation (e) of the Government Relations Contact Team motion passed by Council. It states that:

- (e) That further to Appendix G of the City's Procedural By-law respecting the Role of the Mayor, that a Government Relations Contact Team consisting of the Mayor, Chair of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-committee and the City Manager and additional city staff or elected officials on an as required basis, be approved to assist the Mayor in advocating formal city council approved positions to senior levels of government.*

**Resourcing & Administration:**

Administration, corporate coordination and support to the Fairness to Hamilton Committee, the GR Contact Team and the Government Relations Strategy are provided through the City Manager's Office and Senior Management Team (SMT).

In addition, as outlined in parts (b) and (e) of the GR Contact Team motion, key staff representatives will be identified that have proven competencies in government relations. Once identified, staff will then work with the Mayor and/or interested Members of Council – i.e. this may include Chairs of Standing Committees, Chair of Sub-Committees, or councillors who have a particular area of interest. These teams/groups will work on the identified priorities areas and develop strategies and action plans for advocacy. If there is a requirement to seek out knowledge, either federally and/or provincially on specific projects, the City Manager's Office will look to do so through the use of external experts.

Furthermore, Council may want to seek out expertise to make certain that we have a presence in both Ottawa and Toronto to ensure that there is an "eye/ear" on developing issues that would impact Hamilton.

Where appropriate and where Council approval is required on a particular position or policy, or direction is required, staff will bring this forward to the appropriate sub-committee and/or Standing Committee/General Issues Committee (GIC).