



Provincial Election 2022

# OUR PLAN, OUR PRIORITIES

Building a Brighter Future for Hamilton

Hamilton is one of Canada's largest cities. With a population of over 500,000, it is home to a traditional manufacturing base, a nerve center of healthcare research and training, and is a destination for an emerging knowledge-based economy.

Hamilton is a premier destination for investment and arts and culture, as well as a growing destination for families, whether you are a new Canadian or a Canadian looking for something new.

Hamilton is a city with limitless potential. As the ninth-largest regional economy in Canada and the third in Ontario, Hamilton is uniquely positioned as a truly multi-modal city offering all modes of transportation, moving goods and our workforce. We are the only city in Southern Ontario that offers all four modes of transportation – rail, road, air and port.

Over the next ten years, the population is projected to grow dramatically. The City of Hamilton identified five key priority areas impacting the City, where collaboration with the Federal Government is vital.

Building more resilient, vibrant and inclusive communities post-COVID-19 will be essential to a strong recovery. These priority areas demonstrate how investing in Hamilton can lead to a much brighter, healthier and more equitable future.

## 1 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND ENSURING OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Addressing the economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations by providing significant and sustainable supports for individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Sustainable provincial funding for health and social service supports required to house chronically homeless individuals with varying and complex health needs.
- Encourage provincial and federal governments to work together across health and human services with municipalities in an integrated whole of government approach.
- Ensuring there is a single, coordinated strategy that will provide funding both for critical support services (health, mental health, social services) and infrastructure (capital, building, costs of physical units).

## 2 STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND PROSPERITY POST-COVID-19

Investment in critical social and physical infrastructure to support economic development and continued support for workers, businesses and the health-care system recovering from COVID-19.

As we look to a post-COVID recovery plan, we have identified the need for enhanced support from the provincial government over a minimum of one to two years to transition from COVID-19 emergency supports to a more responsive, resilient, sustainable system that includes:

- Continued support for small businesses, non-profit organizations and charities that have provided services to Hamiltonians and navigated the effects of significant closures.
- Investments in healthcare to address emergency health services modernization and issues such as lengthy ambulance off-load delays, healthy equity, access to care and the need for innovative models that improve care.
- Permanent and predictable funding opportunities that give municipalities flexibility to offer enhanced services such as the Social Services Relief Fund.

New and existing funding tools must be:

- Long-term and predictable – so we can plan ahead, reduce duplication or waste.
- Flexible – so local expertise can identify what solutions come first.
- Efficient and accountable – less bureaucracy, more focus on outcomes.

## 3

### INVESTING IN CHILD CARE AND EARLY YEARS

On March 28, 2022, the Province of Ontario signed the National Child Care agreement with the federal government. Like many other cities in Ontario, families in Hamilton struggle with accessing child care and managing the high fees required to maintain care. Adopting a National Child Care Plan will provide families in Hamilton with access to affordable child care and support increased labour market participation, specifically for women, people of colour and individuals from equity-seeking communities.

- Work with the Province of Ontario to implement the National Child Care Plan at a local level, which is essential to Hamilton's economic recovery.
- The child care and early years sector continues to experience recruitment and retention challenges. A high-quality child care and early years system requires a comprehensive human resources workforce strategy, including fair compensation for early childhood educators.
- Adopting a National Child Care Plan will provide families in Hamilton with access to affordable child care and support increased labour market participation, especially for women and equity seeking communities.

## 4

### CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Municipalities are on the front lines of climate change adaptation, as the level of government that has the most direct contact with residents. Municipalities play a role in setting policy for approvals, but are limited in scope and authority, and need the support of higher levels of government to set policy direction and funding to ensure climate change adaptation actions are taken.

- Committed partnership, financial support and acknowledgment between municipal and provincial government to address climate change and propose innovative locally-focused solutions.
- Ensuring that environmental legislation and environmental compliance approvals provide flexibility for municipalities to gradually improve environmental performance over time without creating barriers to development.
- Investing in green jobs and infrastructure

## 5

### OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion has been identified as a key priority for the City of Hamilton, through the term of Council priorities. We are committed to creating and nurturing a city that is welcoming and inclusive. The goal is that equity-seeking communities will feel safe, supported and have an enhanced sense of belonging through strengthening community capacity and inclusive engagement opportunities.

- Meaningful ongoing support for marginalized communities that have been impacted by hate and racism and playing an active role to help amplify the voices of those from equity-seeking communities.
- Supporting funding for technology education programs for all ages will bolster digital literacy, training, promote digital equity and ensure municipal digital infrastructure projects are eligible for infrastructure funding.
- Providing a rural lens to major policy and funding decisions is imperative at all levels of government. When we prioritize investment in our rural areas, we are investing in our people.

## 6

### INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Better transit means less congestion, faster commutes, more convenience and higher productivity.

The City of Hamilton requires significant infrastructure funding including, but not exclusive to, congestion relief at Highway 403 eastbound between Highway 6 South to Highway 6 North, at the Lincoln Alexander Parkway (LINC), and the intersection of the Red Hill Valley Parkway (RHVP) and the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW).

Modernizing public transit in Hamilton and positioning our City to better support long-term growth and development will remain a core local priority requiring significant investments for years to come.

prepared April 2022