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December 15, 2025

Re: Drowning Prevention and Swim Safety in Ontario

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, passed the following resolution:

Item 9.2 of the General Issues Committee Minutes 25-017:

9.2 Drowning Prevention and Swim Safety in Ontario

WHEREAS, drowning is one the of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario;

WHEREAS, research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water;

WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning;

WHEREAS, many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons out side of school due to financial, cultural, or geographic barriers;

WHEREAS, several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council respectfully urge the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students;
- (b) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities with a request for support and/or endorsement; and,

- (c) That staff be directed to assess all Hamilton waterfronts to ensure adequate public water safety measures are in place, any opportunities to expand Swim to Survive Programs at city pools, and report back with recommendations to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

Regards,



Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

- cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) info@fcm.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Education of Ontario paul.calandra@pc.ola.org
Hamilton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs)
Hon. D. Skelly, MPP (Flamborough-Glanbrook) Donna.Skelly@pc.ola.org
M. Ciriello, MPP (Hamilton Mountain) monica.ciriello@pc.ola.org
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All Ontario Municipalities
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