



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

INTRODUCTION DATE: July 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Funding and Services

CONSIDERATION DATE: July 22, 2019

REQUESTED BY: Councillor Cluett

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ali

WHEREAS according to the National ASD Surveillance System (NASS), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is one of the most common development disabilities in Canada. 1 in 66 children is diagnosed with ASD;

AND WHEREAS according to the Canadian Medical Association Journal, approximately 1% of the Canadian population is affected by ASD, which means there are approximately 100,000 Ontarians on the autism spectrum;

AND WHEREAS changes over time, in its expressions, challenges and delights, Ontario must be prepared to support children, youth and adults within the context of development, learning, family and community. Supportive, understanding, and inclusive communities ensure

that each person with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society;

AND WHEREAS Ontarians must support the individual needs of a person with ASD throughout their lifespan using evidence-based treatment and intervention, while remembering that developmental trajectories are constantly changing;

AND WHEREAS the supports and services for adults on the spectrum are inadequate and fragmented and fail to address needs across entire lifespans;

AND WHEREAS school boards are expecting an influx of about 1,000 students with autism as families lose funding, leaving educators poorly equipped with the resources required to provide specialized care and a higher level of assistance for children with special needs;

AND WHEREAS funding will not address the critical need for assistance for families not only in their younger years, but after the age of 18;

AND WHEREAS the changes which will come into effect April 1 will mean the thousands of families currently receiving services could see drastic cutbacks;

AND WHEREAS given the impact of the recent announcement of the loss of funding at Erin Oaks has resulted in job losses that will directly impact services to families in Milton and Halton Region;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Milton formally requests the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services suspend implementation of its proposed plan and continue to identify and advocate for a sustainable funding plan for families with individuals with ASD to ensure adequate resources for Applied Behavioural Analysis and needed therapies;

AND THAT the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services work collaboratively with families, community partners and stakeholders to develop a funding plan which will guarantee every person with ASD has access to funding, specialized programming and service providers;

AND THAT children currently enrolled in Autism programming continue to receive services;

AND THAT the Clinical Expert Committee be reassembled to provide advice and feedback;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Minister Fedeli, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Region of Halton Council, Chairs of the respective school boards in Halton Region and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Town of Oakville, Town of Halton Hills, City of Burlington, Leaders of the Opposition Party, the Green Party, Project Autism and Autism Ontario.