

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2016

Item 19, Report No. 34, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 19, 2016.

**19 EXPANSION OF PROVINCIAL PUBLICLY FUNDED DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
 FOR ADULTS WITH LOW INCOMES**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Carella, dated October 5, 2016:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Tony Carella.

Whereas, oral health is essential to maintaining overall health; and

Whereas, in Canadian public policy the care of our lips, tongues and throats is fully covered by public funding, but not our teeth and gums; and

Whereas, a mounting body of evidence shows a link between poor oral health and diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and Alzheimer's disease; and

Whereas, untreated tooth decay, gum disease and tooth loss results in social and psychological suffering and interferes with employment opportunities; and

Whereas, between two to three million Ontarians have not seen a dentist in the past year, mainly due to the cost of private dental services; and approximately every nine minutes a person in Ontario arrives at a hospital emergency room with a dental problem but can only get painkillers or antibiotics, and this costs the health care system at least \$31 million annually with no treatment of the problem;

Whereas, almost a third of Canadians have neither public nor private insurance to help them pay for the care of their teeth and gums; and

Whereas, access to oral health care should not be limited to people with private health insurance or who can afford to pay out of pocket; and

Whereas, Ontario's reform of the health care system should include oral health care so that vulnerable people in our communities have equitable access to the dental services they need to be healthy; and

Whereas, Ontario only has public dental programs for low income children, and no public programs for low income adults and seniors; and

Whereas, local Ontario Works (OW) recipients are eligible for limited discretionary coverage for emergency treatment only and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients are eligible for basic dental care and limited discretionary coverage for dentures;

It is therefore recommended:

1. That council of the City of Vaughan endorses the importance of oral health and requests that the Premier of Ontario include oral health as part of the government's primary care transformation initiatives, and further

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2. That Council calls on the provincial government to expand public oral health programs with prime consideration for low income adults and seniors, and further
3. That Council forwards copies of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, York Region municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Attachment

Power Point Presentation prepared by Bridge Community Health Centre (Fort Erie and Port Colbourne/ Wainfleet) on "Expanding Provincial Publicly-funded Dental Health Programs to Include Adults and Seniors with Low Incomes"

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)