



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Moved by: _____ Date: May 6, 2019
Councillor C. Somerville

Seconded by: _____ Resolution No.: _____
Mayor R. Bonnette

15.2

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 ASD 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 unequipped 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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills 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 further;

AND FURTHER 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 further;

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

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

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Minister Fedeli, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Region of Peel Council, Chairs of the respective school boards in Peel Region and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Halton Region, Town of Milton, City of Burlington and Town of Oakville.

Mayor Rick Bonnette