

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair and Members of the Community and Corporate Affairs Committee

FROM: Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks

DATE: August 6, 2019

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM-RP-2019-0005

RE: Menstrual Product Dispensers

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this Memorandum is to advise Council of the steps taken by staff to retrofit existing menstrual product dispensers in Town facilities to offer products free of charge.

BACKGROUND:

The past practice in Town facilities has been to provide coin-operated menstrual product dispensers. With the growing awareness for the need for the provision of menstrual products through programs such as Period Equity or Menstruation Nation, staff is recommending the retrofit of existing coin-operated machines to provide products free of charge. The goal of such programs is to reduce the stigma associated with menstruation and ensure ready access to products, especially to those that may be economically challenged.

At the March 13, 2019 meeting of the Halton Hills Library Board, members voted in support of the provision of free menstrual products in Town libraries and directed Library staff to investigate the feasibility of the initiative within Town facilities.

COMMENTS:

Facilities staff has determined that the existing dispensers found in Town facilities including Cultural Centre and Georgetown Library, Gellert and Acton Arena Community Centres, Acton Library and Town Hall are all suitable for retrofit. While the level of use has not been substantive, staff sees merit in modifying the dispensers to provide products free of charge to be consistent with best practices elsewhere.

The Manager of Communications has developed messaging that reads “It’s life. Period. Free products courtesy of the Town of Halton Hills.” This signage will be placed on the units as they are retrofitted over the coming weeks.

CONCLUSION:

Staff advises that the existing menstrual products dispensers will be modified to offer free products, and that they will continue to monitor the level of use and report back to Council as required.

Reviewed and approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brent Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B' and 'M'.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer