

Sent by Email

September 28, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2  
[pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Subject: Re: Support for Autism  
File: A-1400-001-22

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a meeting held on September 20, 2022 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis is a neurodiverse condition that applies to an estimated 135,000 Ontarians, characterized by differences in the way that the individual communicates and relates to the world around them. As the word “spectrum” suggests, ASD impacts and challenges each individual differently, and in some cases includes co-occurring health concerns;

And Whereas specifically, once a person turns 18, they typically lose access to most ASD government funding and services, which are largely geared toward children. Some of the most significant gaps in supports include long wait times and inaccessible or unaffordable respite care and housing. A group home setting can offer 24-hour care, firm routine, access to social workers and other care providers, as well as appropriate supervision for social interactions and outings that working parents simply cannot provide. The need for appropriate and timely care has been highlighted and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic;

And Whereas over 14,000 individuals (and growing) with ASD are on waitlists for affordable housing, and individuals receiving funding from the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) do not receive enough money to sustain access to private group home accommodations. The maximum single rate for ODSP in 2020 was \$1,169/month (\$14,028), compared to the cost of private group home living at \$90,000/year, and parents are often financially unable to bridge the gap while providing necessities for themselves and other family members;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering:

1. Calls on the Province of Ontario to increase the supply of affordable, supportive housing and respite care options for both children and adults diagnosed with Autism

Spectrum Disorder, equipped with access to wrap-around services, and prioritized by need;

2. Requests that the Province of Ontario consider increasing the Ontario Disability Support Program allocations to provide individuals and families with more housing options for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder;
3. Calls on the Federal government to expedite the development of a National Autism Strategy; and,
4. That a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP for Pickering-Uxbridge, all Durham Region MPPs, Chair John Henry, Region of Durham, all Durham Region municipalities, all Durham Region MPs, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly,



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Enclosure

Copy:      The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
              The Hon. Erin O'Toole, Member of Parliament, Durham  
              The Hon. Mark Holland, Member of Parliament, Ajax  
              Ryan Turnbull, Member of Parliament, Whitby  
              Colin Carrie, Member of Parliament, Oshawa  
              Jamie Schmale, Member of Parliament, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock  
              Jennifer O'Connell, Member of Parliament, Pickering-Uxbridge  
              The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Pickering-Uxbridge  
              Patrice Barnes, Member of Provincial Parliament, Ajax  
              Lorne Coe, Member of Provincial Parliament, Whitby  
              Jennifer French, Member of Provincial Parliament, Oshawa  
              Todd McCarthy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Durham  
              Laurie Scott, Member of Provincial Parliament, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock  
              John Henry, Regional Chair, Regional Municipality of Durham  
              Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham

Becky Jamieson, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of Scugog  
Nicole Cooper, Director of Legislative & Information Services, Town of Ajax  
June Gallagher, Municipal Clerk, Municipality of Clarington  
Chris Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby  
Fernando Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock  
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge  
Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa

Chief Administrative Officer