

June 7, 2019

Mayor Meed Ward and
Members of Council
City of Burlington
426 Brant Street
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6

RE: Burlington Committee of the Whole Climate Action Report CW-21-19

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

I am writing to you today to support the staff recommendation for the City of Burlington to provide \$20,000 in funding in 2019 for the Bay Area Climate Change Council under the Centre for Climate Change Management (CCCM) at Mohawk College.

The Bay Area Climate Change Council is a regional network of organizations from both Burlington and Hamilton (see attachment to this letter for a full list). Its mandate is to coordinate regional efforts to mitigate climate change through emissions reductions, create adaptation strategies, position the Bay Area for success in the low-carbon economy, and develop and share best practices across Ontario.

Currently the Bay Area Climate Change Council is resource constrained due to the cancelled funding under the province's now defunct Cap and Trade program. Originally the funding provided two coordinators to support the Council and provided administrative coordination through Mohawk College's Centre for Climate Change Management (CCCM). When the funding was cut, Mohawk College and the City of Hamilton volunteered to temporarily cover some basic coordination costs for the Bay Area Climate Change Council, but this is only a temporary solution. Therefore, a request has been made to both municipalities for funding to provide additional support for a coordinator who will support the Council and seek additional sources of funding.

The Bay Area Climate Change Council was formed in October 2018 and has completed a work plan. It is now embarking on a process to begin implementing actions to reduce the collective carbon footprint and improve resilience in our communities. However, the lack of funding to provide the backbone support for the organization is a limitation to taking action. The CCCM was successful in obtaining funding from the federal government to support the Climate Change Summit earlier this year and from The Atmospheric Fund to help the council develop a workplan. We believe that funding from both municipalities is crucial to support an additional

coordinator role to organize the resources required for an implementation team and meet the council's mandate.

I would like to thank Mayor Meed Ward and members of council for your commitment to take action on climate change through your recent Climate Emergency Declaration and the city's Strategic Plan goal to work towards being a net carbon neutral community. Thank you for your consideration of the recommendation made by staff in report CW-21-19.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Koroscil', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Koroscil
Chair, Bay Area Climate Change Council

Attach.

Members of the Bay Area Climate Change Council:

- Richard Korocil (resident & chair)
- Burlington Economic Development Corporation
- BurlingtonGreen
- Burlington Sustainable Development Committee
- Clean Air Hamilton
- Conservation Halton
- Environment Hamilton
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
- Hamilton Conservation Authority
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
- Sustainable Hamilton Burlington
- United Way Halton and Hamilton
- Anna Pautler (Burlington citizen)