

With regards to the final delegates remarks about stigmatization of those who CANNOT wear a mask, I disagree that it will naturally lessen.

I have already suffered bullying and verbal abuse at the hands of fellow customers and employees of 2 stores (and online) in Burlington, despite masks not even being mandatory.

On the Burlington Facebook page, you can see the dialogue of people trying to convince me that I am selfish, willing to harm others and that I could get “used to it” if I tried. Also those trying to bully me into telling them my personal medical issues, which is none of their business. And of course, those insisting that I should stay in my home if I don’t wear a mask.

If you do pass this by-law, I only see this getting worse for those of us who cannot wear it. It seemed very apparent from the councillors statements that this vote is a mere formality and the decision is already made.

Delegate Anthony raised some excellent points about how there is science and the numbers do not support this drastic measure. There is much disagreement within the medical and science community about the efficacy of mask wearing and because of this, you should err on the side of freedom of choice for the people who elected you and maintain a voluntary masking order.

If you do go ahead with this, I urge you to make it a priority in publicity and general public awareness, not just on store signage, that there are people for whom there are allowed exemptions and they are not required to disclose their medical conditions to anybody who questions them. Personally, I would like a section in the by-law regarding fines for those who do medically discriminate as well.

Thank you for reading my comments and I urge you to consider the points I’ve made!

Michelle