St. Catharines

June 19, 2019

Sent via email

Re: Resolution - Free Menstrual Products at City Facilities

At its meeting held on June 10, 2019, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

> WHEREAS people who menstruate need adequate and appropriate access to menstrual products so that they can experience their full health potential, maintain dignity and participate fully in community; and
>
> WHEREAS according to Plan Canada International study, one-third of Canadian women under the age of 25 struggled to afford menstrual products; and
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> WHEREAS the inability to afford menstrual products is a health equity issue; and
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> WHEREAS there is a need for low or no cost menstrual products; and
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> WHEREAS menstruating is a natural bodily function, and access to menstrual products is as necessary as access to toilet paper; and
>
> WHEREAS universal access to menstrual products contributes to the normalization of menstruation and enhanced access in a dignified way; and
>
> WHEREAS other Canadian cities, including London and Sarnia are already piloting and/or assessing the feasibility of menstrual product access programs; and
>
> WHEREAS recreation centres and libraries service a large population, diverse in age and socioeconomic status; and
>
> WHEREAS public-facing City of St. Catharines facilities can be accessed by all members of the community at no cost;
>
> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines work towards providing free menstrual products (pads and tampons) in all public-facing municipally-run facilities in the following ways:

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1. That staff report back to Council outlining options and costs for a pilot project that would offer menstrual products in select recreation centres and library locations;
2. That the evaluation of the pilot project also include qualitative data from people using the products;
3. That the results of the pilot project inform the feasibility of expanding the provision of free menstrual products in all public-facing municipal buildings;
4. That if passed, the Clerk's Office notify all school boards and municipalities in Ontario of the City of St. Catharines' initiative and encourage them to do the same.

This resolution, passed by our Council on June 10, 2019, is being forwarded to you for your consideration and support. Please consider forwarding this to your local school board.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
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